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OPINION METER
This week's poll:

Should panhandling be prohibited in the CNMI?

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Experience authentic Korean cuisine at an undiscovered culinary haven. ➤ PAGE 16

ASIA

Chinese fishing boats return to a disputed lagoon in the South China Sea. ➤ PAGE 20

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In the ballet world, they call him the charming one. ➤ PAGE 24

'$1.2M in Fund attorneys' fee exorbitant.' PAGE 3
Masked man stages daylight robbery at poker arcade. PAGE 9

CUC buys out IPP contract for $7.25M

By MONETH G. DEPOSA and HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTERS

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. will soon be taking over the Power Plant 4 station in Puerto Rico after the utilities firm entered into an agreement to buy out the contract of independent power producer Pacific Marine & Industrial Corp. for $7.25 million.

Acting CUC executive director Alan W. Fletcher confirmed the contract buyout yesterday, saying it will be paid in installments for 27 months.

Fletcher assured that no funds were reprogrammed for the transaction. "No funds were reprogrammed. The buyout shortens the term of the existing contract by two years for CUC. This is where the savings come in," he explained.

Separately, Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos said he signed off on the buyout because it is a lot less expensive than the $16 million that the government would have spent for the monthly payment of $300,000 until the end of the contract in 2016, plus fuel and lube expenses.

According to Fletcher, the buyout payment of $7.25 million is about the same amount as the monthly payments CUC currently pays PMIC—about $331,000

See CUC on Page 4

NEW HEALTH CENTER MONETH G. DEPOSA

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Juan Babauta shares with attendees the challenges that the Kagman Community Health Center board and health personnel went through since it first applied for the grant in 2003. He urged Kagman residents to take pride and ownership in their own health center, which was recently awarded over $600,000 in federal grant.

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PHI Pharmacy stops services to Medicaid patients

» Pharmacy shuts down Kagman outlet, lays off personnel

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Patients on Medicaid will no longer be able to avail of the services of PHI Pharmacy following its decision to stop accommodating clients of the indigent health program until such time that the government pays its delayed reimbursements to the company.

PHI Pharmacy vice president Bruce Cohen confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that effective July 1, the company's outlets will stop accepting patients who use Medicaid as their insurance. He disclosed that the program owes the company in excess of $1 million, representing arrears of more than a year.

Cohen said that Medicaid patients who want to avail of their services would have to pay for their prescription drugs upon pickup.

"Medicaid patients are still welcome at PHI, but they have to pay for their pre-

See PHARMACY on Page 4

Senate blocks placing Fund under Finance

» House nod needed for EO amendments to kick in
» Admin: Concerns are borderline child's play'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Senate passed a resolution yesterday to block Gov. Benigno R. Fitial from placing the NMI Retirement Fund under the Department of Finance, reinstating instead a leaner three-member board. The House of Representatives, however, also has to approve the resolution in order for the amendments to the governor's executive order to take effect.

The Fitial administration described most of the concerns the Fund and the Senate raised as "without substance" and "borderline child's play."

By a vote of 6-2, the Senate adopted Senate Joint Resolution 17-19 that modifies Fitial's executive order

See SENATE on Page 4

Local

Liberation Day fest kicks off tonight

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

The 2012 Liberation Day festivities will kick off at 6pm tonight at the Garapan Fishing Base with live entertainment and booths for community members to enjoy, according to Mayor Donald Flores.

He said yesterday that the Liberation Committee decided to fire up on a Friday this year's weeklong celebration due to the Garapan Street Market at the festival venue every Thursday.

He noted that this year's observance is a collaborative effort of the Saipan Mayor's Office, the Liberation Committee, and radio station KKMP—all without assistance from the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation.

Flores underscored the many times they sought funding from the delegation months before to jumpstart the preparation but their pleas for assistance fell on deaf ears.

The mayor pointed out that for the past two years, the Liberation festivities were subsidized using Mayor's Office resources, pulling out funding from other community projects and services.

"This year, we have to stand strong and prevent that from happening again, so we're very appreciative to KKMP for providing valuable support and assistance to make this year's celebration possible," Flores told *Saipan Tribune*.

Flores disclosed that the 2012 Liberation Festival grand marshal is David M. Sablan, whose record of community service speaks for itself.

"Mr. Sablan is involved in many organizations and does community work. He's a great man who finds time to serve the community he belongs to," said Flores, adding that Sablan was the only person considered for the position.

Today also marks the counting of tickets for the five Liberation Queen hopefuls. The candidate with the most number of tickets sold will be crowned in a ceremony at the festival grounds on Saturday.

The weeklong event will culminate on July 4 with a parade that will start at National Office Supply and end at the festival grounds in Garapan.

Flores urged the community to support the 2012 Liberation Day celebration and enjoy the program that the Liberation Committee has prepared. For more information, call 234-6208.

Senate puts 99-year land lease in House Article 12 initiative on blood quantum

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

By a vote of 8-0, the Senate passed yesterday a House legislative initiative on Article 12 of the NMI Constitution by changing the 25-percent blood quantum requirement to only "at least some degree" of Chamorro or Carolinian blood or a combination of these, in order to be considered a person of Northern Marianas descent and therefore can own land in the CNMI.

But the Senate amended House Legislative Initiative 17-3, House Draft 1 to increase the maximum private land lease from the current 55 years to 99 years to attract more investors while protecting the interests of NMDs.

The initiative now goes back to the House to either accept or reject the Senate amendments.

If the House accepts the 99-year lease agreement amendment, then the initiative will be on its way to the Nov. 6 ballot for voters to ratify it.

Article 12 of the NMI Constitution restricts ownership of land to people of Northern Marianas descent, or NMDs.

The Senate's passage of this initiative amending only the blood quantum requirement of Article 12 comes over a month after it rejected another initiative seeking to repeal Article 12 in its entirety.

The Senate Natural Resources Committee, which recommended passage of House Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro's (Cov-Saipan) HLI 17-3, HD2, Senate Substitute 1, said it recognizes that during the economic situation, Article 12 "may be considered a hindrance in terms of encouraging and attracting investors through leasehold agreements."

It therefore recommended increasing the lease term in Article 12, Section 3 of the NMI Constitution from 55- to 99-year leaseholds for non-NMD investors to "help stimulate the economy by attracting more investors, while protecting the interests of the indigenous residents."

The panel also said that, as NMDs continue to marry non-NMD's, future generations of Chamorro and Carolinian families will not own land merely because they fall below the 25 percent blood quantum requirement

"The Committee took into account that NMD persons express concern that as their children may not bear the minimum blood quantum requirement, they may never get to pass on their inherited ancestral lands. Moreover, your committee finds that a constitutional proposal to amend the one-quarter blood quantum requirement to 'at least some degree' will continue to preserve the culture and traditions of the indigenous Chamorros and Carolinians and allow future generations of all Northern Marianas descendants own ancestral lands," it said.

NMC legislative initiative

Senators also passed yesterday the House-amended Senate Legislative Initiative 17-12, seeking to amend Article 15 Section 2 (b) of the NMI Constitution authorizing the Northern Marianas College's Board of Regents to revise NMC's mission statement.

The initiative is now on its way to the Commonwealth Election Commission, for placement on the Nov. 6 ballot.

Prior to this, only one other legislative initiative will be presented to voters on Nov. 6—the elected AG initiative.

Frank Eliptico of NMC, who was at the Senate session yesterday, said the college is "pleased" with the Senate's passage of two NMC-related pieces of legislation.

Besides SLI 17-12, the Senate also passed House Bill 17-

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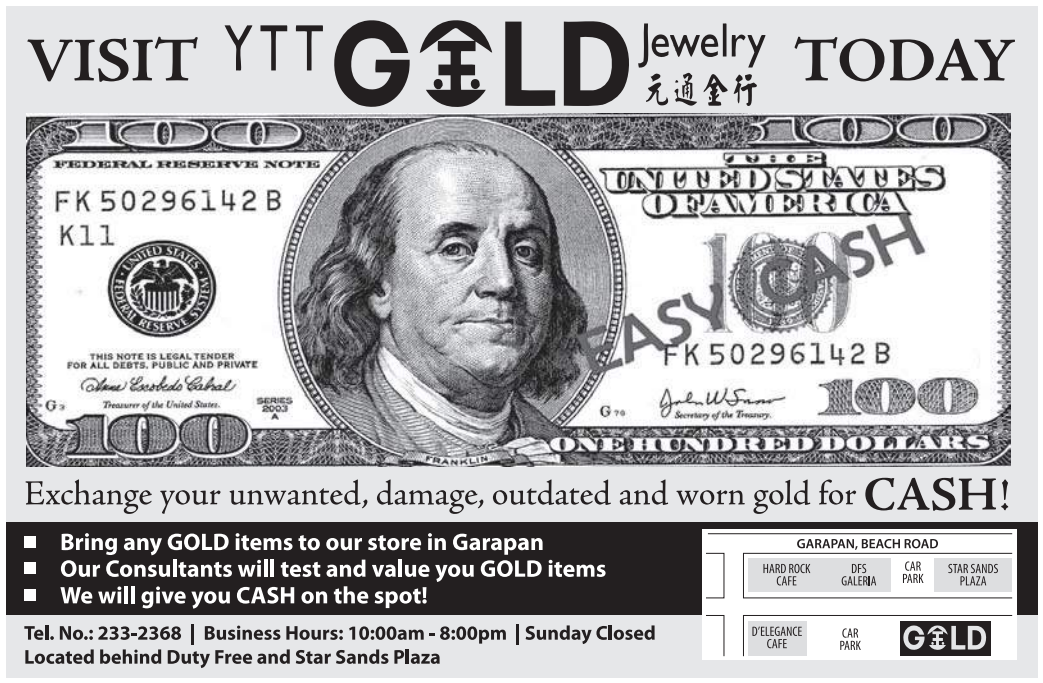
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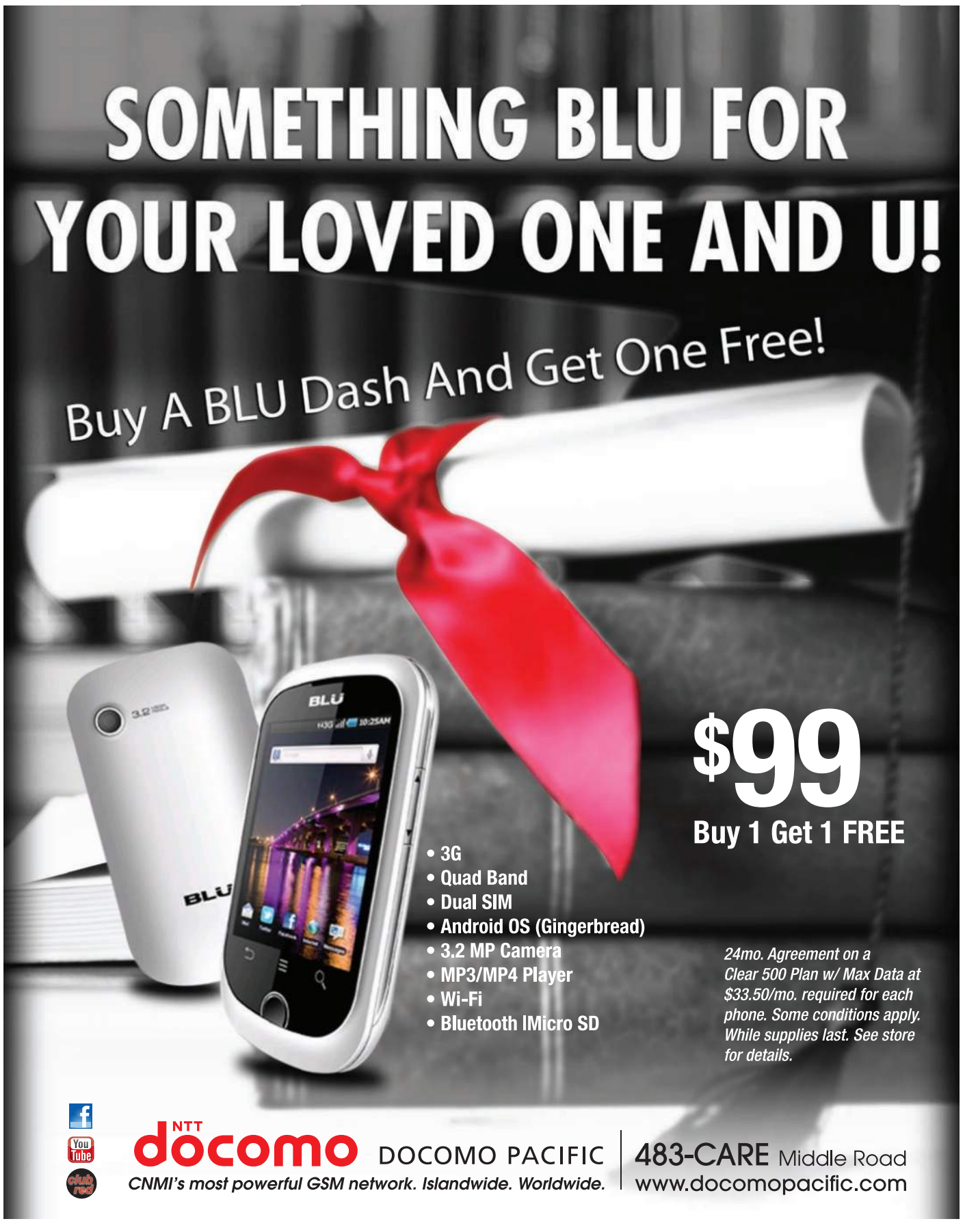
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'$1.2M attorneys' fee in Fund bankruptcy case exorbitant'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Former CNMI attorney general Richard Weil urged U.S. District Court bankruptcy judge Robert J. Faris yesterday to reject what he described as an exorbitant $1.2 million attorneys' fee being requested by the NMI Retirement Fund's lawyers.

In a letter to Faris filed in court, Weil, a Fund member who is now based in Hawaii, expressed his strong opposition to the $1.2 million that the Boston-based Brown & Rudnick law firm has allegedly requested for their services in the Fund's failed Chapter 11 bankruptcy petition.

"The amount sought is excessive and unwarranted considering the work done, the result obtained, and the hefty increase above the amount contracted for with the Fund," said Weil, who also previously served as legal counsel for the Public Auditor's Office.

Saipan Tribune tried to obtain comment from attorney Braddock Huesman, one of the Fund's counsels, but he did not reply as of press time.

Weil said it seems to him that Brown & Rudnick should not even have been retained in the first place. He said the issue was a threshold one: "Is a government entity eligible to file for federal bankruptcy protection under Chapter 11?"

The issue is not that difficult to research, he said. Basic research could have and should have been done by the Fund's two in-house legal counsels, he added.

"I don't have the circumstances surrounding the Fund's decision to retain the Boston law firm, but I believe that decision was strongly influenced by one of the Fund's outside counsel whose law school classmate was a member of that firm," Weil said.

Weil said he doesn't have the detailed billing, but that he suspects that it contained services for suing various autonomous agencies in bankruptcy court for debts owed to the Fund, and transferring the $231 million judgment against the central government from the local court to the Bankruptcy Court for collection.

In the last week of May 2012, Fund counsels filed five separate lawsuits before the Bankruptcy Court against different government agencies for alleged failure to remit payments. The separate lawsuits were filed a day or two before Faris issued a tentative ruling saying he is inclined to dismiss the Fund's bankruptcy petition.

According to Weil, the Fund's court actions should not have been taken until the ruling on whether the Bankruptcy Court even had jurisdiction, because if the court lacked jurisdiction—as the ruling held—those actions would be meaningless.

"Such premature actions by the lawyers can't help but raise a question as to whether they may possibly have been running up their fees in the bankruptcy proceedings," Weil said.

The former attorney general hopes that Faris will agree that no fees should be awarded for performing such premature and unnecessary services in the bankruptcy case.

"The amount paid for professional fees has been staggering. An attorney fee here, a consultant's fee there, another attorney fee over here…the process has gone on unchecked, and the Fund's cash balance has taken numerous such hits. Death by a thousand cuts," Weil added.

ARTICLE 12

From Page 2

294, House Draft 1, allowing the NMC Board of Regents to make certain exceptions to the basic residency requirements set by law. NMC earlier said it wants flexibility in setting the residency requirements for its students so that more recipients could avail of lower tuition.

"Both give the NMC Board of Regents the flexibility to set those things, the mission and the residency rate," Eliptico told *Saipan Tribune*.

He said NMC will now work with the election commission in a public awareness campaign, to educate voters on the importance of amending the constitutional provision on NMC.

The initiative seeks two changes: the word "mission" will be revised to "purpose" and a provision will be added stating that it will be the Board of Regents that will establish the mission statement.

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Fifth edition of Tinian history book now available

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

The fifth edition of *Tinian: A Brief History*, which first appeared during the recently concluded Marianas History Conference, is now available in the market beginning yesterday.

Written by historian Don A. Farrell, the 113-page book chronicles the history of one of the three principal islands of the CNMI, dating from prehistory up to the present.

Tinian: A Brief History is edited by Bruce M. Petty, produced by Micronesian Productions, and published by Pacific Historic Parks.

Farrell said yesterday that this is the first time the book has been published by an organization outside the Commonwealth.

"We're very proud of that because it means that the history of the Marianas is going to be reaching people outside the Marianas," he said.

Farrell said the book is intended not only for the local population but also for island visitors to allow them "to take home the history of our islands and share it with their friends at home."

The first edition of *Tinian: A Brief History*, Farrell said, was a black-and-white book published in 1987 and was his first attempt at writing the history of Tinian, made possible by a great deal of interviews and photographs.

Farrell noted that this edition has a colored section and contains English text and photographs that are captioned both in English and Japanese. He said the Japanese translation was provided by N. Horiguchi.

"I convinced him to do the Japanese translations because he is an elder Japanese who was born during the war in Japan and he is of course very sensitive to the proper translation of American into Japanese so that it can be properly understood by our Japanese visitors, particularly for our Japanese *man'amko*," explained Farrell.

Farrell pointed out, however, that the book does not contain all the details he makes available in school textbooks. "I tried to create something that was within the space available, representative of the history of Tinian," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Farrell urged community members to purchase copies of the book and send it to family members and friends off island to help create awareness about Tinian.

"If there was a larger purpose in mind when we created this, it wasn't just for us to celebrate ourselves but for us to pass on the ward to the outside world of who we are," he added.

Tinian: A Brief History is available for sale at the American Memorial Park, CNMI Museum, and Bestseller store at Joeten Susupe Shopping Center.

CUC

From Page 1

per month.

Based on CUC data, the early termination of the PMIC contract will provide some $6 million to $8 million in benefit to CUC customers over the next few years.

Plant closure

Fletcher said they intend to close Power Plant 4 by the end of the year. He revealed that higher speed engines at the plant are significantly less fuel-efficient than engines at Power Plant 1.

"Power Plant 1 will have sufficient capacity by the end of 2012 to make Power Plant 4 redundant," he said.

Fletcher said that 12 employees working at Power Plant 4 will be transitioned to CUC. However, he said, this matter is still in negotiation.

Fletcher revealed that the buyout is expected to boost CUC's gross savings to about $19 million over the remaining life of the contract. In net savings after financing, CUC is projected to earn $5.4 million.

Because of this projection, CUC expects a reduction in its LEAC rate of about 1 cent per kilowatt-hour, based on current fuel prices.

Offline

Power Plant 4 has been offline since late May, meaning it has not been supplying any power to the Saipan grid anymore. This is because CUC's Power Plant 1 in Lower Base is able to supply enough power without the help of Power Plant 4.

"At the moment, because of the improvements in power Plant 1, the production out of Power Plant 4 is not needed. But we have to pay a minimum payment to PMIC for maintaining the contract. We do not see the need for that contract to continue through the life of the contract, which is through 2016," Inos said.

He said the government tried to negotiate with PMIC for a lower buyout amount, but in the end, that figure stood at $7.25 million.

He said buying out the contract is a lot better than paying some $300,000 a month to PMIC until 2016, which is about $3.6 million a year, and estimated at $16 million to $18 million until 2016.

The government is also saving from not buying and supplying fuel and lube to run Power Plant 4.

"The [existing] contract binds us to pay $300,000 whether they produce power or not. And not just that. If they produce power, we're going to pay fuel cost for it. So when you look at all the savings as a result of terminating the contract, it's worth our while to just go ahead and pay an X amount, buy them out. We'll be saving probably about $6 million," he said, adding later on that the savings could be around $6 million to $8 million.

Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan), chairman of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation's Committee on Public Utilities and Infrastructure, echoed Inos' statement that the government would save $6 million to $8 million once it pays off the buyout amount.

Dela Cruz said he asked CUC earlier this year to consider shutting off Power Plant 4 to save on expenses, if the power from Power Plant 1 is already enough to supply Saipan. Power plant 4 will be used only if there's real emergency.

PHARMACY

From Page 1

scription. The decision is due to lack of reimbursement by the Medicaid program," Cohen told *Saipan Tribune*.

Based on the company's database, there are an estimated 15,000 to 16,000 patients who may be affected by this suspension of service.

PHI Pharmacy has been accepting and serving Medicaid patients since 1996 and Cohen said this is the first time they will suspend services to these patients.

He said the nonpayment of Medicaid reimbursements for more than a year now has gravely affected the company's operation, resulting in the shutdown of its Kagman outlet starting tomorrow.

Kagman is one of the company's three branches in the Commonwealth. It was open for only a year. It is currently holding a clearance sale until tomorrow, June 30, where it offers up to 75 percent discount of over-the-counter products.

Besides the outlet's closure, Cohen said the company also has to let go of some employees as a result the company's tight financial situation.

After June 30, supplies from the Kagman outlet will be available at their Dandan and Navy Hill outlets.

Cohen said the decision to suspend services to Medicaid patients was made after hearing from the Medicaid program that it has no money to pay for its arrears and that no concrete date has been set as to when the obligation may be fulfilled.

Cohen assured, however, that they would resume services to Medicaid patients just as soon as Medicaid pays them.

"This is a very difficult time for us but we ensure that PHI Pharmacy has an adequate supply of pharmaceuticals for the people of the CNMI," he said.

In April this year, many private dental clinics also suspended their services for Medicaid patients for the same reason—non-reimbursement. The government, which handles the Medicaid program, earlier disclosed that it owes dental clinics $1.6 million.

Medicaid is a federal/state program that requires 55-45 matching funds. *Saipan Tribune* learned that for fiscal year 2012, the Medicaid program was allocated only $2.4 million, an amount not enough to cover the increasing number of eligible patients under the program.

SENATE

From Page 1

placing the Fund under a state of emergency.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) said that once the House also adopts the resolution, the amendments "will have the full force and effect of a law" because it's an amendment to an executive order.

"So we can't blame anyone else other than the Legislature if we cannot pass an amendment to the EO," Manglona told *Saipan Tribune*.

Manglona reiterated that the Senate and the Fund, as well as retirees, are concerned how the administration will ensure it will continue to pay the Fund when it allowed the government to owe the pension agency some $320 million in unpaid employer contributions and interest.

He said there's conflict of interest on the part of the Executive Branch if it is allowed to manage the pension agency when it owes it a substantial amount of money—one of the major factors in the Fund's financial crisis.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, when asked for comment, said the Fitial administration will consider reviewing the resolution.

"However, at the outset, most of the concerns being raised by the Fund and now by the Senate are really without substance. The Fund continues to create the illusion that assets of the Fund will be tapped for other purposes. This statement that they are making in an effort to mislead retirees and the general public is totally nonsensical and borderline child's play," Demapan told *Saipan Tribune*.

Only eight senators were present yesterday, as Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) was on leave following the passing of his father.

Of the eight senators, two—Senate floor leader Pete Reyes (R-Saipan) and Sen. Henry San Nicolas (Cov-Saipan)—voted "no" to the resolution.

San Nicolas believes that Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos should be given a chance to implement their plans to prolong the Fund's lifespan and protect retirees and active members.

"Until I see the Fund or the Legislature has a better plan, the administration should be given the chance to implement their plan," he said, referring to transitioning non-retired members into the U.S. Social Security system and continuing to pay retirees' pension when the Fund is placed under Finance.

Reyes earlier said it would be better if the administration itself amends the EO rather than the Legislature.

Fund administrator Richard Villagomez said the Senate joint resolution incorporated most of the Fund's concerns, as well as those of Senate and House members, that were raised during the past few days' meetings. He also thanked the House for setting a time to meet with them in the next few days on the same issue, hoping that the House will also adopt the resolution.

Villagomez and Fund legal counsel Christopher Timmons were at the Senate session yesterday.

'Governor exceeded his authority'

The Senate, in adopting the resolution, said that Fitial exceeded his authority by declaring a "disaster" not contemplated by Article 3 Section 10 and 15 of the NMI Constitution and the Disaster Relief Act of 1979.

Senators cited four major reasons for amending Fitial's Fund EO, including re-confirming that the Fund's assets and property are held in trust for members' benefits.

They also wanted to ensue that the Fund's assets and property can only be disbursed to cover benefit payments and necessary trust costs, and to clarify that all assets and properties of the Fund will be kept separate from the assets of the CNMI or its agencies.

Most importantly, the Senate said their amendments will ensure "a mechanism for appointment of a board of independent trustees over trust assets with authority to collect and enforce the Retirement Fund Act against the government and its autonomous agencies."

They said vesting the powers of the Fund board and administrator in the governor pursuant to the EO "will result in an immediate breach of trust upon the effective date of the Executive Order."

Senators also said vesting of "all the statutory powers, duties, functions and responsibilities" of the Fund and its board in the Secretary of Finance "will result in a further breach of trust" and abolishing the board "will undermine the ability of the Fund to operate as an autonomous agency."

Fitial placed the Fund under a state of emergency after a federal court dismissed the Fund's Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing. The administration said the EO takes into effect when the written ruling is issued.

Board of trustees

The Senate maintained a three-member Fund board of trustees, much leaner than the seven members now required by law, which is being amended.

The board will hold the Fund's assets and property in trust for members' benefits.

One of the trustees shall be appointed by the House, one shall be appointed by the Senate, and one shall be appointed by the governor.

The appointments will not need the Senate's advice and consent.

The resolution says: "The board of trustees of the Fund as of June 27, 2012, shall cease to exist."

It also says when membership in the Fund shall fall to less than 75 percent of the membership on the effective date of the amendments, the board shall be replaced by a single professional trustee appointed by the then current board, with the advice and consent of the Senate.

The board shall also cooperate with the government's efforts to reduce unfunded liabilities, including any efforts to transfer Fund active members to the U.S. Social Security system; providing that all such efforts include a binding mechanism to replace the government's contributions to the Fund that were previously made as a percentage of covered employee salaries.

The board also has to make periodic written reports to the Office of the Public Auditor about the Fund's fiscal affairs and expenses on a quarterly basis.

Senators also capped at $100,000 per annum the Fund's spending on outside board legal counsel.

'No show'

None of the three top officials that the Senate president invited to the Senate session showed up yesterday. They were Fitial, Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Attorney General Edward Buckingham.

Manglona wanted the three or their representatives to answer questions about the administration's reorganization plan for the Fund.

Fitial, in a letter yesterday responding to Manglona, said he thanked Manglona for his invitation letter delivered to the governor's office at 4:20pm on Wednesday.

"Unfortunately, Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos and I are unable to fulfill your 'short notice' request," Fitial told Manglona.

Fitial, however, said he and Inos invite Manglona and other Senate members to meet with them "to discuss your concerns" about the Fund "and our commitment to work collaboratively toward resolving this matter."

Oct. 1 opening of Kagman Community Health Center eyed

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Kagman residents won't need to drive to the Commonwealth Health Center in Garapan for their healthcare needs when the much awaited Kagman Community Health Center opens on Oct. 1.

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. official and other government officials yesterday showed Kagman residents the future site of the health center—the old detention facility in Kagman II.

The health center will be run and operated entirely by a seven-member board of directors, all residing in the area.

The CNMI was recently awarded $608,333 in start up funds for the health center by the Health Resources and Services Administration. The grant requires an in-kind matching fund from the healthcare corporation such as staff and supplies.

In a briefing yesterday at the center's future site, corporation CEO Juan N. Babauta emphasized that the corporation will serve as a partner to the center, which will function as an independent agency with its own governing board, CEO, chief financial officer, and administrative assistant.

He said the former Department of Public Health and the health center's board have been applying for the grant since 2003 but was unsuccessful until it finally got approved this year.

Babauta congratulated each member of the board, health officials and staff, and certain lawmakers who were instrumental in the grant award.

Babauta said two things need to be accomplished during the initial phase of the project: the renovation of the facility and the appointment of key staff. Also, under the grant agreement, the center has to be up and running within 120 days, or on Oct. 1.

Babauta expressed confidence in meeting these prime requirements.

He also acknowledged the support of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, who was at yesterday's event.

Fitial said he is very happy that Kagman residents are getting something that they really need. Any project that will help the welfare of the people, Fitial said, is a welcome development for his administration.

A wellness center

Public Health director Roxanne Diaz said the Kagman Community Health Center will serve as a wellness, prevention, and primary care center. Among the services that will be offered at the site are women's health, pediatric health, dental and mental services, NCDs, and others.

Besides the estimated 4,000 Kagman residents, the new center will also benefit residents from other places as its operations will not be restricted to Kagman residents, she said.

Medicare and Medicaid patients will also be served at the facility, she said, including other patients with other insurance carriers.

Diaz urged all Kagman residents to take ownership of the health center and keep the facility and its environment clean at all times.

Also present in yesterday's occasion were Arielle Buyum, who wrote the grant application for the project, Bureau of Environmental Health director John Tagabuel, corporation board members Roy Rios and Jack Torres, former deputy secretary Esther Muna, Reps. Frederick Deleon Guerrero and Ramon Basa, KCHC board members led by chair James Lizama, and hospital and health division personnel.

Fitial, others sued by Ron Paul supporters over GOP primaries

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial is among the Republican Party chairmen of every U.S. state and territory, along with the Republican National Committee, that GOP presidential candidate Ron Paul supporters sued for allegedly improperly helping frontrunner Mitt Romney during the primaries.

Fitial is the current president of the Republican Party of the CNMI Association.

Romney won the GOP primaries in the CNMI on March 10.

The governor "shares the views of the RNC that the suit is completely frivolous but one to which a serious response must be made," press secretary Angel Demapan told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday when the governor was sought for comment.

"The RNC counsels will provide joint defense on behalf of all of the defendants. Given that this is a matter before the courts now, further comment is reserved until the appropriate time," Demapan added.

The Republican National Committee calls the lawsuit "frivolous," but plans a vigorous defense nonetheless, some national media said.

A group of more than 100 Ron Paul supporters sued RNC, RNC chair Reince Priebus, the Republican parties of every U.S. state and territory, and the chair of each state party on June 11.

They hope that a federal judge will rule that all delegates to the national convention are "unbound" and therefore free to vote for the candidate of their choice even if they were won by Romney. Most state parties require delegates to vote for the candidate who won them in primaries or caucuses.

The plaintiffs also alleged that RNC has been helping Romney's campaign throughout the presidential primary, in violation of party rules.

Romney sent his son Matt and daughter-in-law to Saipan in March to campaign on his behalf, the first time in CNMI history that a presidential campaign has set foot on the islands.

Romney, a former Massachusetts governor, won an overwhelming 87 percent or 740 of the 848 votes cast in the CNMI on March 10.

Rick Santorum got only 6 percent or 53 votes.

Ron Paul got 3 percent or 28 votes.

Newt Gingrich also got 3 percent, or 27 votes.

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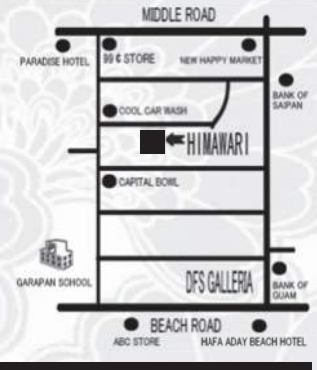

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ON NMI'S LAWSUIT TO STOP FICA TAX

DOJ still reviewing IRS information; seeks more time to respond

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. government is asking for more time to respond to the CNMI government's lawsuit that seeks to stop the U.S. Department of the Treasury and U.S. Internal Revenue Service from imposing tax liability associated with the Federal Insurance Contribution Act on Philippine and Korean workers with Commonwealth-only visa or status.

U.S. Department of Justice Tax Division trial attorney Jeremy M. Hendon informed the U.S. District Court for the NMI yesterday that he is still reviewing information from IRS. As counsel for the U.S. government, Hendon said he needs more time to review and analyze that IRS information.

The deadline for the U.S. government to respond to the CNMI government's lawsuit is today, Friday.

Hendon said the additional time they are asking for will allow them to prepare an appropriate response. He insists that his request is not being made to delay the case.

Assistant attorney general James R. Stump, counsel for the CNMI government, agreed to extend the time for the U.S. government to respond to the complaint to Aug. 29, 2012.

The CNMI government filed the lawsuit on Jan. 19, 2012.

In the lawsuit, the CNMI asserts that extending the FICA liability to Filipino and Korean nonresident workers could result in the imposition of $24 million annually in illegal taxes on the Commonwealth economy.

"Imposition of the unlawful FICA tax on businesses struggling in the contracting economy will certainly cause a large percentage of businesses to close," according to Stump. The CNMI's economy will be further devastated and the government's budget will be further reduced, he added.

Co-defendants in the lawsuit are Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner and Internal Revenue Commissioner Douglas Shulman.

The CNMI is suing the defendants for breach of the Covenant and violation of Consolidated Natural Resources Act.

The CNMI wants the district court to declare that the imposition of FICA taxes on Philippine and Korean workers under a CW-I status violates the Covenant and the CNRA.

Stump stated in the lawsuit that U.S. law provides an exemption from employer and employee FICA taxation for employment associated with "service performed in Guam by a resident of the Philippines and by a resident of the Republic of Korea while in Guam on a temporary basis as a nonimmigrant alien admitted to Guam."

Stump said the stated purpose of these exemptions was to avoid imposing FICA taxation on alien individuals who, due to the limited nature of their visa status, would be unlikely to receive benefits.

NMI Supreme Court hands out ruling in eminent domain case

On June 28, 2012 the CNMI Supreme Court issued a ruling in *Commonwealth v. Lot 353 New-G,* addressing the right of the heirs of Maria Mangabao to enforce their eminent domain judgment against the Commonwealth.

In 1993, the CNMI government took property from Maria Mangabao by eminent domain and used the property to improve a portion of Middle Road. The Commonwealth did not pay just compensation for the property. In 2008, over 10 years after the taking, the Commonwealth and the heirs entered into an agreement as to the value of the property. The trial court then entered a judgment against the Commonwealth for $4,196,524, the agreed value of the property. However, when the heirs tried to enforce this judgment with a writ of execution, the trial court refused to issue the writ. It relied upon 1 CMC § 7207, which states that any final judgment of a court shall be paid only pursuant to an item of appropriations for settlements and award. The trial court reasoned that, under the plain language of the statute, it had no authority to issue a writ of execution against the Commonwealth. The trial court subsequently awarded the Commonwealth title to the property. It also awarded the heirs' prejudgment interest on their judgment. It did not award the heirs any post-judgment interest.

The heirs appealed. They argued that section 7207 violated the Takings Clauses of the United States and NMI Constitution by preventing them from obtaining just compensation for their property. They also argued that the Commonwealth should not receive title to the property until it paid just compensation. Finally, they argued that the trial court erred by failing to award them post-judgment interest on the judgment.

On appeal, the Supreme Court held that section 7207 did not violate the Takings Clauses. It emphasized that the appropriation of funds is a power traditionally vested in the Legislature, and that the Judiciary would not infringe upon the independence of the Legislature by holding the statute unconstitutional and enforcing its judgment without an appropriation. The High Court also noted that most U.S. jurisdictions have adopted constitutional provisions similar to our statute. In applying these provisions, state courts routinely refuse to enforce judgments in the absence of a legislative appropriation.

The High Court also held that the Commonwealth could not take title to the property without payment of just compensation, and it ordered that title to the property remain with the heirs until the Commonwealth either paid just compensation or provided for future certain and adequate compensation. The court explained that the right to property is a natural and fundamental right. The just compensation requirements in the Takings Clauses protects persons from being called upon to unjustly sacrifice their private property for the good of the community. Although the government is not required to pay just compensation prior to a taking, it is well-established that the government cannot obtain title until it has either paid compensation or provided for future compensation.

Finally, the High Court held that the heirs were entitled to post-judgment interest on the judgment, and it remanded for an award of post-judgment interest.

The Supreme Court's full opinion is *Commonwealth v. Lot 353 New-G*, 2012 MP 6, and can be found at http://www.cnmilaw.org/supreme_12.htm. ***(NMI Judiciary)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Wishing you a happy 15th birthday, Emily Rose Yaisang DeWitt! May the good Lord bless you with many more wonderful years to come. Enjoy! We love you. Greetings come from your DeWitt and Manta Ray Band families.

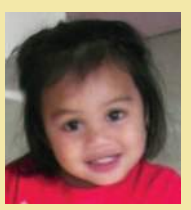
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Belated birthday greetings go out to Jennette Ramos, who celebrated her special day on Monday, June 15! Greetings come from your beloved.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy second birthday to our bundle of joy ShabJae Ramangmou Sablan, whose birthday is today, June 29. May you have the greatest day today and many more to come and we love you! Shoutout coming from Mommy, Daddy, your older brother Seancyjohn, and your beautiful sister Shaceyjane.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Kilili repeats praise for all responsible for Kagman health center

FOR THE RECORD

The record of CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan's work on behalf of the Kagman Community Health Center with links to relevant documents:

A history of support

When Sablan was sworn in to the U.S. House of Representatives in 2009, one of the first constituent groups who came to ask for his help was the CNMI Department of Public Health. DPH had made several unsuccessful applications for a start-up grant for the Kagman Community Health Center, as far back as 2003 in the administration of Gov. Juan N. Babauta. Public Health had been turned down for a planning grant, too, which could have helped improve the quality of the applications for a Community Health Center.

On March 26, 2009 members of the board of the Pacific Islands Primary Care Association also met with Sablan, concerned about the Northern Marianas' lack of success in getting funding. The board is composed of the executive directors of the Pacific Island Community Health Centers in American Samoa, the Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, the Marshall Islands, and Palau. Only the Northern Marianas had no community health center.

In response Sablan had his staff contact the Health Resources and Services Administration at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to see what the newly opened congressional office could do to help the Northern Marianas win a Community Health Center grant.

Members of Congress operate under ethics rules that prevent them from applying political pressure to federal agencies. Members can, however, make the case for consideration of constituent needs. So, Sablan wrote to James Macrae[1], associate administrator for Primary Care at HRSA, in support of a new application for a planning grant[2] that CNMI Public Health was submitting; and Macrae responded[3], promising full and fair consideration of the application.

Sablan wrote to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial[4], informing the governor of this action; and Sablan also reported his support of the planning grant to constituents in the June 19, 2009 e-Kilili newsletter.[5]

"This is not the first time the CNMI has applied for this grant, which Yap, Guam, and other areas in the Pacific have qualified to receive," Sablan said in the newsletter. "I hope that adding my voice as NMI congressman will help."

The same issue of the e-Kilili newsletter also reported that Democratic leaders in the U.S. House of Representatives had that week released a draft of health care reform legislation that would eventually become the Affordable Care Act, or Obamacare. The new funding for Community Health Centers that was the source of the $608,333 Kagman grant announced last week was part of that original legislation.

On July 22, 2009, Sablan followed up with officials of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services both to keep abreast of the CNMI's planning grant application and to signal his continuing support. And on Aug. 23 Health and Human Services announced an award[6] of $80,000 for the planning grant.

Far from taking credit for himself, Sablan congratulated the Department of Public Health on this success. In the e-Kilili newsletter of Sept. 21, 2009,[7] he reported: "First step taken for Kagman Community Health Center—I offer my congratulations to the Commonwealth's Department of Public Health, which was recently awarded an $80,000 competitive grant by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The grant will help DPH develop the Kagman Community Health Center, a proposed model health facility to provide primary and preventative care services to the Kagman Community. I commend DPH

See RECORD on Next Page

WASHINGTON, D.C.—CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan has repeated his praise for everyone responsible for the grant of $608,333 for the Kagman Community Health Center awarded last week.

"I said it loud and clear the first time—for all who want to hear," Sablan said and quoted his June 20 announcement of the grant: "So many people have worked for so long to have the Kagman Community Health Center approved for federal funding. And now that work has paid off.

"Short of listing every person who worked on the many grant applications going back over a decade—running the risk of leaving someone out—I really don't know how much more inclusive to be in recognizing this accomplishment," Kilili added. "So many people did work for so long. And their work did pay off.

"What is sad is that instead of joining me in saying what good news this is for the people of Kagman, who will now have greater access to health care, there are those who want to argue over who gets credit.

"But what the people of Kagman want to hear is what the next steps are.

"When will the Health Center be open for business?

"When can we start getting health care in our own village?

"When can we have basic dental care again for our children?

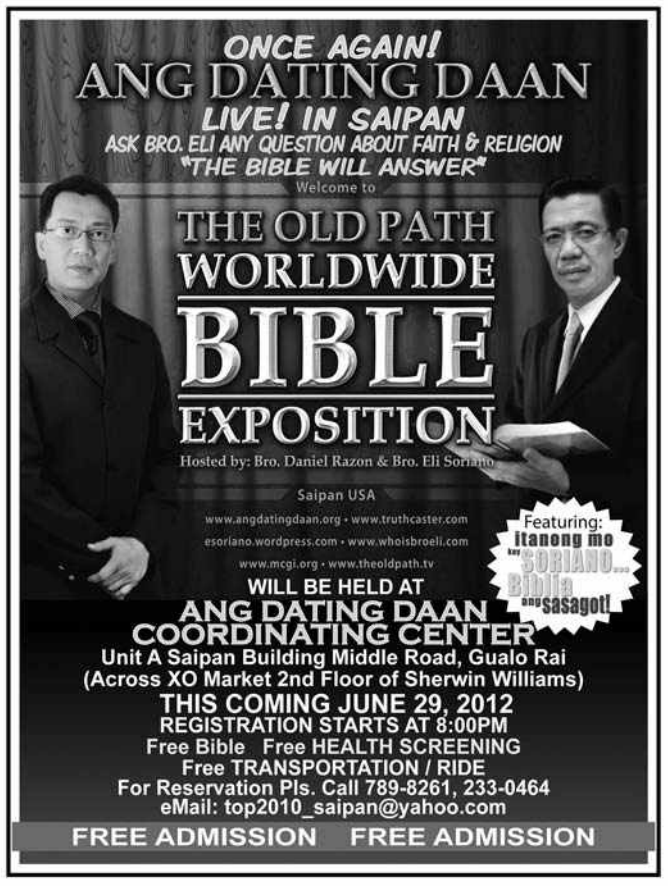
"Prenatal care, immunizations, case management services for those with diabetes—when?

"People in Kagman have waited for their health center for a very long time. Now that the money has been awarded they want to start seeing results. They want to see the promises in the grant put into action.

"I will continue to work with anyone who is interested in results and do all I can to make sure that in Congress we continue to provide the necessary annual funding for Community Health Centers nationwide, including Kagman," Sablan said.

"And once Kagman proves successful we need Community Health Centers on Tinian and Rota.

"I will support those grant applications here in Washington, too, just as I supported Kagman's Community Health Center." ***(PR)***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RECORD

From Page 7

on its successful application."

Sablan made no mention at all of his work on behalf of the planning grant application.

Sablan's support for the Kagman Community Health Center grant application was not an isolated event. After that planning grant was awarded, the acting secretary of the CNMI Department of Public Health met with Sablan in Washington asking for more assistance. This time the application was for a Health Information Regional Extension Center; and Sablan again provided the requested letter of congressional support.[8]

When the Northern Mariana Islands Legislature established an Office of Grants Management with Public Law 16-48,[9] Sablan offered Fitial continued assistance of this kind to support grant applications. Sablan wrote the governor on Feb. 2, 2010,[10]:

"…Members of Congress will often provide letters of support for grants, once applied for. Many applicants may not know that this means of reinforcing grant applications is available—again, because the Northern Marianas has never before had a Member of Congress to turn to.

"…I want you to know that you can request similar support from me for projects and grant applications coming through your new [Office of Grants Management].

"…I look forward to helping to make this office as successful as possible in partnership with you for the benefit of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands."

The governor never replied.

Later in 2010, the Department of Public Health submitted a new application for the Kagman Community Health Center, incorporating the work underwritten with the 2009 planning grant. The governor did not ask Sablan to submit a letter of congressional support. When the Department of Health and Human Services announced awards in August 2011,[11] again the CNMI had failed to win a grant.

Years of effort finally pay off

Sablan continued to reach out to the Fitial administration with suggestions for action to improve health care and offers of help. On Sept. 1, 2011 he wrote acting governor Eloy S. Inos,[12] suggesting that in light of the failed Community Health Center grant application the administration consider seeking certification of a Federally Qualified Health Center Look-Alike, which can be a stepping stone to a full-fledged Health Center and which would be eligible for enhanced Medicare reimbursement, reduced price drugs, and the services of medical personnel from the National Health Service Corps or with a J-1 visa.

Sablan also wrote to newly appointed Commonwealth Health Corp. CEO Juan N. Babauta[13] congratulating him and offering to work together to obtain federal support for health care in the Northern Mariana Islands.

And Sablan continued his support for the Kagman project with the encouragement of the Pacific Islands Primary Care Association. The congressman learned that the CNMI's most recent application had received a high review score that ordinarily would have meant a grant award had there not been a shortage of funds available for the Community Health Center program nationally.

He also learned that the Bureau of Primary Health Care at HRSA had concerns about the CNMI application because the original co-applicant, the Department of Public Health, was being transitioned into a semi-autonomous, quasi-governmental Commonwealth Health Corp..

Sablan again stepped in. New funding had become available in 2012. The Affordable Care Act, or Obamacare, which Sablan and other territorial delegates had worked diligently to have island areas added to, provided money for Community Health Centers as one of its many benefits.[14]

"I am writing in support of reconsideration of the New Access Point application to establish the Kagman Community Health Center," Sablan wrote to Associate Administrator James Macrae on April 17, 2012.[15] "I understand that the application is among those with sufficiently high scores to be eligible now for reconsideration without the necessity of an entirely new submission."

Far from attempting to exert political influence on the agency, as Babauta has recently accused, Sablan specifically asked Macrae to "provide full and fair consideration of the Kagman application consistent with all applicable law, rules, and regulations."

Subsequently, the Health Resources and Services Administration did decide to fund 219 New Access Point grants with $128.6 million of Obamacare money,[16] using the scores from the FY 2011 round of applications. HRSA also had received assurances from the Commonwealth Health Corporation that the change in organizational structure of the CNMI Department of Public Health would not affect the management of the Kagman Community Health Center, as it had been proposed in the grant application.

Kagman was awarded $608,333.[17] In announcing the good news, Sablan acknowledged the long years of effort by so many that finally resulted in the grant.

"So many people have worked for so long to have the Kagman Community Health Center approved for federal funding. And now that work has paid off," he said. "This is good news." ***(PR)***

1 http://sablan.house.gov/sites/sablan.house.gov/files/documents/2009-5-6%20%20Letter%20to%20Mr.%20James%20Macrae.pdf
2 http://sablan.house.gov/sites/sablan.house.gov/files/documents/Community%20Health%20Center%20Planning%20grant.pdf
3 http://sablan.house.gov/sites/sablan.house.gov/files/documents/2009-5-28%20Letter%20from%20Mr.%20James%20Macrae-HRSA.pdf
4 http://sablan.house.gov/sites/sablan.house.gov/files/documents/2009-6-15%20Letter%20to%20Governor%20Benigno%20Fitial-Kagman%20Community%20Health%20Center.pdf
5 http://sablan.house.gov/press-release/6192009-newsletter
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16 http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2012pres/06/20120620a.html
17 http://www.hrsa.gov/about/news/2012tables/120620nap.html

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SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PERIMETER FENCE/ROADSIDE/DITCH/ AND RESTRICTED AREA GRASS CUTTING PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-003-12

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is soliciting sealed proposals for perimeter fence/roadside/ditch and restricted area grass cutting for a period of **two years** at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The scope of work entails providing continuous grass cutting services for the Airport as described in the scope of work. The **proposal package** which includes the **scope of work, evaluation factors, draft agreement, and insurance requirements** will be available at the Office of the Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building beginning **Monday, June 11, 2012**. Proposers must submit all required documents listed in the scope of work. All responses to this RFP shall also take into account any and all costs that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for the project. Proposers shall also take into consideration all necessary badging requirements and fees for this project.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: *"Perimeter Fence/Roadside/Ditch and Restricted Area Grass Cutting at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport."* One original and three (3) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than **2:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME, FRIDAY, JUNE 29, 2012**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

All proposals will be evaluated based on the following factors: (1) price, (2) company experience, (3) company experience, (4) sufficiency of workers, (5) available resources (funds and groundwork tools and equipment) and (6) valid CNMI Business License.

A **pre-proposal conference** will be held at the CPA Conference Room, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at **10:00 am, Friday, June 22, 2012** to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. All prospective proposers may attend. Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director in writing at least 7 days prior to the pre-proposal conference.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding proposal rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

CPA assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of offeror's preparation of the proposal or supply under the contract. This RFP does not commit to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Proposals received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO
Executive Director

Date: May 30, 2012

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
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REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES for the Saipan International Airport Roof Drainage and A/C System Improvements AIP No. 3-69-0002-62/65/67 (CPA-SA-003-09)

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested firms to perform construction management services for the Saipan International Airport Roof Drainage and A/C System Improvements Project, AIP Nos. 3-69-0002-62/65/67 (Project No. CPA-SA-003-09), Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification from firms should address the areas generally described below:

A. Overall construction management experience in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;

B. Specialized experience and technical competence in the type of work required and previous experience with projects similar in scope;

C. Key personnel's professional qualifications, experience and availability for the proposed services; their reputation and professional integrity and competence; and their knowledge of FAA regulations, policies and procedures;

D. Quality of projects previously undertaken and capability to complete projects without having major cost escalations or overruns;

E. Past performance on contracts including cost control, quality of work and current workload and demonstrated ability to meet schedules and deadlines;

F. Firms must have a valid CNMI Business License and the ability to perform the construction management activities in the CNMI.

Interested firms must submit one (1) original and four (4) copies each of their statements of professional qualifications for each service offered no later than **4:30 p.m., Friday, July 27, 2012.**

Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330. Only firms who have established an office in the Commonwealth and a valid business license will be considered.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to: Mr. Edward M. Deleon Guerrero
Executive Director
Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 501055
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO
Executive Director

Date: June 28, 2012

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Jun. 29, 2000

Govt told to pay USGS $2 million

The chairman of the House Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications has disclosed that the CNMI government still owes the U.S. Geological Survey more than $2 million for a water well drilling project on Tinian. Rep. Rosiky F. Camacho told Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio that the it is a financial obligation that must be paid by the Commonwealth, even though the debt was incurred due to a decision by former mayor of the island municipality. Mayor Francisco M. Borja has raised his concern over the "little attention" given by the central government on the issue during a recent public hearing conducted by the House committee.

Garment lawsuit moved to Saipan

The Saipan Garment Manufacturers Association yesterday applauded a decision by the U.S. District Court in Hawaii to move a class action lawsuit against the industry back to Saipan, saying that it will result in a more efficient and speedy resolution to the litigation. SGMA executive director Richard A. Pierce reacted enthusiastically to the June 27th news of the court's transfer order that mandates that the case be heard by Saipan's U.S. District Court. "As a trade association with a membership involved in this unfortunate litigation, SGMA feels the same, I believe, as do the Saipan attorneys representing our membership. This move from the Los Angeles Central District Court, to the Hawaii District Court, to the Saipan District Court, is in everyone's best interest," said Mr. Pierce.

Jun. 29, 2001

Democrats wrapping up slate

With only five months left before the general elections, the Democratic Party is still looking for congressional candidates for Precinct III -- a known Republican Party stronghold. Committee to Elect Jesse Borja Chair Efrain F. Camacho revealed that the Democratic Party still has no candidates for the six congressional seats that are up for grabs in November. However, Camacho said the party is carefully reviewing a list of possible candidates. He added the party is expected to complete its selection in time for the year-end polls.

DPH mulls high-tech AIDS center

The Department of Public Health yesterday said it is putting up a technologically-updated health center that will attend to the needs of HIV patients. The "HIV-AIDS Treatment and Support Center" will be the CNMI's premiere health center, which will respond to the medical needs of people with HIV or AIDS, said David B. Rosario, DPH public health adviser. In an interview, Rosario said DPH is working out the release of some $150,000 to start the project.

Jun. 29, 2004

Over 200 evacuate to shelters

With weather conditions from Typhoon Tingting worsening yesterday, over 200 people began to seek hiding in several schools designated as shelters. As of 3pm yesterday, seven shelters were occupied by 201 people. Housing the most people was Garapan Elementary School with 86, 30 of which were children; Koblerville Elementary School with 57; Dandan Elementary School with 17; Oleai Elementary School with 16, Kagman High School housed 13, San Vicente Elementary School had nine, while Tanapag Elementary School had three. According to GES shelter manager William T. Lieto, service to the shelter was also provided by the Public School System via school buses.

CPA: Negotiation would proceed when lots are allotted to seaport

The Commonwealth Ports Authority would begin a new round of negotiations with Horizon Lines if there would be concrete evidence that the Saipan Seaport would be allocated the needed lands for its expansion program. CPA executive director Carlos H. Salas disclosed that, if the needed lands are allocated as planned for the Saipan Seaport expansion program, CPA might return to the negotiating table to discuss transshipment operation with Horizon Lines, which pulled out from the discussion due to the CNMI's inability to commit. "There is still high uncertainty for the CPA and the CNMI because of its inability to facilitate needs for them to call port. We need the extra lands and it is important for the regional transshipment hub operation," said the executive director. He said once all concerns are addressed, CPA would continue its negotiation so the project could proceed as planned.

Masked man stages daylight robbery at poker arcade

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

An unidentified man armed with a machete staged a daylight robbery at a poker arcade in As Lito yesterday. A surveillance camera caught the incident.

No one was reported hurt but the suspect managed to run off with cash from MGM Poker, according to the Department of Public Safety.

Police spokesman Jason Tarkong described the suspect as about 5'10" to 6'0" tall, in his mid-20s to early 30s, and was wearing a black hooded jacket, blue jeans, white gloves, sunglasses, and had a red bandanna covering his face.

Police investigation showed that the suspect entered MGM Poker at 9:24am, barged into the cashier's booth, threatened the 20-year-old female cashier with a machete, and demanded money.

After getting the cash, the robber went outside, ran south, and disappeared behind the building where the poker arcade is located.

Tarkong said police officers reviewed the incident as recorded on the video surveillance.

Tarkong said Crime Stoppers is seeking the public's help for information on the robbery.

"DPS and Crime Stoppers need your help. Please contact the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272 should you want to remain anonymous or use our website at www.nmicrimestoppers.net. Crime Stoppers pays up to $1,000 for any information leading to an arrest," said Tarkong, who is also the Crime Stoppers coordinator.

In October 2009, an alert security guard and a female cashier foiled two masked men's attempt to rob the same MGM Poker. The suspects were not arrested.

When the security guard at MGM saw masked men outside the establishment, he immediately closed the main door. One suspect, armed with a rifle, attempted to open the door by shaking the door handle. The cashier immediately called the police.

The suspects fled on foot to the north side of the building.

This is the first reported robbery at a poker establishment in the CNMI this year.

Last year, three poker arcades on Saipan were reportedly robbed. Of the three cases, police arrested a suspect in one incident. The robber was subsequently convicted.

Last April, a female cashier of Cery Store in Kannat Tabla was injured when three masked persons robbed the establishment. The suspects were not arrested.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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Generosity should go beyond the bus

By DANIEL AKST
Newsday

Daniel Akst is a columnist for Newsday *and a member of the newspaper's editorial board.*

By now you may have seen the video, as at least 2 million others have.

Karen Klein, a 68-year-old Rochester, N.Y.,-area school bus monitor, is taunted mercilessly by a bunch of foul-mouthed middle-school students. Klein's restraint in the face of this revolting onslaught is extraordinary.

Even more extraordinary: Once the video of this "Lord of the Flies" episode went viral on the Internet, a stranger's fund-raising effort to buy her a nice getaway brought in, at last count, a staggering $560,000.

The events in this video raise many disturbing questions. How can young people be so cruel? And what kind of homes do these kids come from?

But to me, the Klein saga raises one question above all others: Why do we need a video in order to open our wallets, in this case to a person whose suffering was not strictly the result of too little money?

The answer, of course, is human nature. Putting a face on suffering is usually more effective than any abstract appeal. That's why so many charitable appeals feature images of starving African children or others in dire need.

Yet the outpouring in response to Klein's doleful experience on the school bus suggests that some people, at least, can afford to give more. I suspect this is true of many Americans, myself included. If that's the case, then we ought to give it, even if we never see another video of a person in need.

It's worth noting here that Americans are already among the most charitable people in the industrialized world. Furthermore, I have no illusions that philanthropy can solve all the world's problems. On the contrary, I believe economic growth is the most potent force for progress on almost every front, and that Bill Gates has done more good—as a businessman and a philanthropist—than Mother Teresa.

But markets can't solve every problem. Nor can governments. And let's face it, existing levels of philanthropy pale in comparison to the disease, hunger and other woes that more money could alleviate.

So how much should the average middle-class person give? That's a tough question. Personally I do not plan to feel guilty every time I drink a craft beer instead of a glass of tap water, just because I could have diverted a few more dollars to the needy. This kind of self-denial would soon enough make me uninterested in earning any money in the first place. That's how communism failed.

On the other hand, I know I could do more even without sacrificing Racer 5 India Pale Ale. I've had the example of friends who had less than I do, yet followed the tradition of tithing—giving 10 percent. Besides, charitable giving is tax-deductible.

If 10 percent sounds like a lot, consider the Oxford philosopher Toby Ord, who in 2010 gave away 40 percent of his $39,000 salary. He focuses on fighting tuberculosis and parasitic infections in the Third World.

Despite his modest earnings, Ord is determined to give a million pounds—more than $1.5 million—over the next 35 years or so, which he estimates will save thousands of lives. For the rest of us,

See GENEROSITY on Next Page

Veggies and fruits

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) previously taught at San Vicente Elementary School on Saipan and is currently a guest lecturer at Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

One of the delightful features of the Chinese street market, not only for its communal and celebrative atmosphere (like the Garapan street market spectacle), is the abundance of fruits and vegetables at very reasonable prices.

In this teeming city of more than 4 million people (12 million in the county, and the city aiming to have 20 million 20 years hence), I was short of a few coins the last time I was out shopping on the street and the seller looked at me and said, "I see you around enough, you can give me the difference next time." Of course, I had to grab a student to translate the exchange, but I realized quickly I had joined and been accepted in the communal noosphere.

I am partial to vegetables and fruits, having grown up in the northern part of the Philippines where the backyard pork was reserved for the fiesta, the chicken in the yard for guests (children get the head, neck, gizzards, along with the rest of the innards), goat in the pen for the beerfest following a family celebration, and beef (*carne norte*) rarely appearing and vaguely remembered when they did. So green beans and yellow squash were the mainstay of the dining table, along with the bitter melon, petchay (Chines *bok choi*), and the ubiquitous *saluyot.*

The slimy *saluyot* is often identified with the okra for the similarity of taste, but it is actually an herb often dried to make tea. Known as *malukhiyah* in the Arab world, it is often identified as the Egyptian national dish, having been a favorite of the pharaohs.

It is actually a member of the jute family used as rope fiber, but the Yoruba, Hausa, and Fula of Nigeria (I picked up my malaria in a Lagos lagoon 30 years ago but now I am neighbor to Nigerian students at SAU) use it for stew and soup, or mixed with groundnut to make the *kulikuli* cake. I often wondered where we got the geographical name Kuli-Kuli, a notorious red district in Metro Manila that Ilocanos headed to when inebriated, and then I came upon the scientific name of the slimy *saluyot,* C. Olitorius. That figures!

This vegetable grows in Africa, the Arab world, India, Southeast Asia, the Philippines, and the Pacific islands, including the Marianas. Along with the *amargozo/ampalaya,* a vine on Saipan, they are abundant in the land. I had fun pointing out to my Chamorro friends of the rich vitamin and mineral nutritional virtues of both *saluyot* and *ampalaya* (bitter melon). SoCal Southeast Asian immigrants reportedly have a lower incidence of leukemia than the general population, attributable to these vegetables in their diet.

We have not exactly gone vegetarian but the price of meat in China is high, and the offerings that reaches the hoi polloi is hardly premium quality. If one dines at the five-star hotels, the blood that oozes off one's rare beef steak might be fresh, but that is hardly a come-on to the likes of our Jamaican-in-Chinatown colleague hanging out in New York! Neither does it appeal to our taste, nor does it do any good to the size of our girth.

The plentiful fish and the shellfish in the area provide us our required protein, but the proximity to the Fukushima waters and the massive chemical effluents into the nearshore and river deltas make this option hardly to be excited about.

However, our physical health is not the point of this reflection. While local production, consumption, and supply of fruits and vegetables are important, the choices we make about our lives are eminently more critical.

In 2008, we were diagnosed with spondylosis, a cervical bone disorder, and after seeking and acquiring our own therapeutic relief other than going under the scalpel prescribed, we prepared to fade into a friend's 10-acre farm on Saipan. We were to build a hut from proceeds of my Retirement Fund withdrawal to protect us from the weather; we bought a few handy aids like a bush cutter and power saw to trim the wild vines and trees. The tools flown in from NYC were quickly burglarized before they came out of their boxes.

Then we discovered a plot of cannabis growing in the yard. Meant to cover for the poor farmer's uninsured baby delivery, it was understandable, but our public profile was not consistent with identifying with the produce. So we never got around to practice our permaculture (term for the grab bag mixture of disciplines including organic farming, agroforestry, integrated farming, sustainable development, and applied ecology) that we learned long ago in our quixotic efforts among the watersheds of the Visayas.

It is just as well. The dream farm not realizable and the refusal of PSS to take me back as a Social Studies teacher (eminently qualified to teach K-12, a sensible colleague candidly said, "We can get two entry level persons for what we have to pay you.") I chose to live the struggle of instructing Zhongguo students in the second language of their choice to maneuver in today's global society.

This is where our signature slogan we expanded from Dag Hammarskjold *Markings* comes in. Comprehensive and profound as context: *For yesterday, Thanks; for tomorrow, Yes; for today, Let it be!*

Veggies and fruits are abundant in the CNMI, economically advantageous if we make it so. But we have to decide. That, and the quality of our inner and outer existence.

Fraud alert. Click.

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. His column runs every Friday.

If you're not keeping a hairy eyeball on your financial accounts, you might want to start taking a closer look at things. This week has been a doozy for financial crimes. They've hit the headlines, they've hit close to home, and one actually did hit home.

I'll start off with big news from yesterday. A cyber-attack on an international array of banks lifted a reported $78 million from customer accounts. The story is still developing so the actual extent of the crime probably isn't known yet.

Meanwhile, one of my friends just had his bank account sapped by a guy who simply walked into a bank, filled out a withdrawal slip with the appropriate information, presented a false ID that was in my friend's name, and sashayed out with the cash. Yes, just like that. This is pretty worrisome stuff.

It's so worrisome that I have channeled my inner Travis McGee (hero of mystery novels). WWTD? What would Travis do?

He'd be eying the buxom blonde in the string bikini at the marina bar, that's what he'd be doing. She's downed three scotch and sodas. She just ordered a fourth. She seems worried about something, or maybe just lost in thought, as she meditates on the ice cubes in her glass, searching them for clues about where it all went so wrong. Maybe it was that time she took the Greyhound bus from Biloxi to Las Vegas. Vegas will get you every time, she tells herself; there's a smile on every face, and a lie behind every smile. Over her shoulder golden ripples from the setting sun shimmer on the water. A warm breeze is stirring. Her fresh drink arrives, and she lifts her eyes and happens to meet Travis' gaze. She smiles...

Hey! Travis! Do you mind? It's time to get your head in the game, sir, I've got a column to write. OK? Thank you.

Travis would think that the guy that did the deed at my friend's bank was a mere mule for the mastermind, since anyone as smart as the mastermind wouldn't expose himself like that. Travis would further induce that an arrangement like that was symptomatic of a professional syndicate, not just an ad hoc deal.

And now for my little caper. On Sunday I was trying to pay for gasoline with a credit card. The transaction wouldn't go through. Sure, I have other credit cards. I also have a wife. My wife has about 80 purses. She literally has purses within purses. She shuffles my credit cards between them using a sophisticated, randomly-based logic sequence that not even Einstein could solve on a good day. Nothing can trump Wife Purse Logic.

"*Mahal*, where is my green Amex card?"

"It's in my purse."

"Which purse?"

"The Coach purse."

"Which Coach purse? You've got, like, 80 of them."

"Of course. So just look in the purse."

"Agh. Never mind. Just tell me where the platinum Visa is, OK?"

"Sure. It's in the other purse."

While I was trapped in the infinite loop of Purse Logic, my credit card company called on the cell phone. An automated voice declared that my credit card was canceled due to a fraud alert. End of message. Click.

Well, that explained the problem at the gas station. I finally got through to the card's security department. No, I did NOT order 200 big screen TVs and a pack of Gummy Bears for delivery to Bucharest. And if you're going to charge me for 37 roundtrip tickets from Murmansk to Guayaquil then at least give me the frequent flyer miles.

Fortunately, the same grouchy voice-bot that canceled my card flagged the bogus charges; nothing escapes that witch. So I'm OK. But here's something telling: The credit card company has no interest in finding a path to the bad guys. Apparently, nobody has the resources to solve this stuff, since there's so much of it going on, "24/7" as they say, all over the world.

Jeez, enough already. Let's bring back the good old days, when a bank robber had to at least work for a living and risk getting plugged by the sheriff in the process. That was the American way.

Back then we had cops and robbers. But now we just have hackers and victims, plus the occasional automated voice to keep score. Click.

Grappling with economic depression

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

The foundation of the American dream is premised on the "free enterprise" system of freedom. It permits anyone to be "all that you can be." Stagflation—where the cost of basic goods is too high, where underemployment and unemployment are high, exacerbated by a non-growing economy—has reduced the dream to "putting food on the table."

Here at home, nearly everyone is suffering *not* from the effects of a normal recession, *but* triple digit economic depression—worse conditions than a recession—where hopelessness is the powerful sentiment billowing from every village where the simple folk live. You wonder what lies ahead as intransigence blossoms, cementing the new art of hysteresis to sink hardship deep into an unsolicited new way of life in agony and misery. What crowning achievement!

I could sense the perception of voters who know crystal clear the apocalyptic economic conditions at home. It is uppermost in their minds. They are the very the people the elected elite has royally misrepresented and failed.

This is understood with real clarity that each voter would carry with him/her to the voting booths this midterm election. There's nothing that any incumbent could say to change this fully imbedded perception today. Most aren't ready to repeat with failure. And they'd do anything to change their conditions. Real change! *Diberas*!

■■■

Progressive's view of inequality

Rhetoric begins to heat up about investments across the country. It boils down to a debate between liberals with warped agenda versus conservatives. Liberals peddle its misguided view of "inequality" (European model being espoused by Obama for his redistributionist policy) as the replacement system versus the free enterprise concept founded on freedom.

The liberal viewpoint is basically communism in all its essence, but liberals have found a way around it to avoid eliciting a bad reaction from most Americans. Do you really wish to turn a freedom loving country into a dictatorship? Why must we listen to statists?

Their persistent agenda on wealth redistribution isn't for purposes of cutting down state or federal government deficits. It's to steal from the wealthy via additional taxes to ensure that more Americans rely on entitlement programs.

Notice how their agenda has encouraged several state governments to raise more taxes to pay for their profligacy or spend-and-spend behavior? This paradigm has failed and has fallen flat on its face. Otherwise, state governments won't be seeking for bailouts from the feds only to return home empty-handed. They were soundly told to go home and make necessary cuts. And cuts are the only realistic choice.

Europe's socialism has failed. And we need not look beyond Greece to see why detrimental reliance on government isn't going to quell mounting fiscal chaos either. "Europe's debt troubles are widespread, making almost every country vulnerable to the contagion now spreading across the continent." It's headed into irreversible dual fiscal trauma, according to a highly reliable recent study.

But President Obama looked tired, his usual eloquence garbled with excruciating painful delivery addressing the recent G-20 summit. Perhaps his physical exhaustion has blurred his vision to see clearly why his quiet agenda to rein in European socialism is headed into self-destruction. It's already torching the largest economy in the world—Europe!

The misguided definition of socialistic inequality has resulted in more than half the country receiving some form of entitlement assistance. Is this the vision of socialistic liberal progressives? How do you untangle over 200 years of prosperity under the free enterprise system? Is it right to deny successful people their dues because they've worked hard and earned it? Isn't their wealth largely responsible for jobs creation?

You can rationalize all you wish to justify European-style socialism and warped view of inequality. But I will never allow anyone to claim a penny I've duly earned through sheer hard work. Why should others take paid luxury vacations on my dime? If you still disagree, it's time to move to Iceland. It's a perfect place for Obama and though he may be in his best element while living in that country, I doubt he'd last three months as his freedom is clipped by his blurred vision of socialism. Let freedom ring... from sea to shining sea!

■■■

Stealth intro to dictatorship

There's the often overlooked or clandestine provision inherent under Article 12. This provision promotes the concept of "collective" ownership of privately owned land.

A close scrutiny shows that it will replace the current land tenure system of over 400 years of "individual" to "collective" ownership. You may disagree, but take a closer look at what it holds against private landowners.

For instance, who is to stop a future governor and legislators from confiscating privately owned land permitted under Article 12 so it is kept in a land banking system for future use? This could easily fan the fire in the establishment of a totalitarian government—basically a dictatorship—where total power over private land is in the hands and disposition of the governor and his cronies. By then, our livelihood would be under the complete control of a dictatorship.

You see, the essence of the local view of this provision (Article 12 proponents) isn't what you promote it to be. *It is superficially veiled under the term "protection."* But at the same time it denies you full ownership of your private land. Take a closer look to see its clandestine nature grounded in collectivist socialism.

The change in blood quantum requirement still leaves the most fundamentally flawed aspect of Article 12—denial of full landownership! Why the perpetual lie of veiled protection to landownership? When do we part with the immature, self-inflated sense of ourselves, specifically our frail and spineless superiority? And with all our bigoted views, we still see fit to use the tax contributions of those we've denied equal protection for 32 years now?

■■■

Laughter

After the kickoff campaign of the Red Brigade last Sunday, cleaners found several boxes of BB water guns ready for shipment to U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder to aid in the Fast and Furious contempt hearing. In one of the boxes, there was a note inscribed, "Go ahead and sell them to Mexican drug gangs so you could replenish Obama's fast-depleting campaign funds." *A`Saina!*

GENEROSITY

From Page 10

he's started an outfit called Giving What We Can, whose members have committed to give at least 10 percent of their earnings to the most cost-effective charities.

Finding a charity that will put your hard-earned money to good use is a big problem faced by anyone philanthropically inclined. Giving What We Can claims to have done so, in part, by focusing on the developing world, where the most good can be done for the least cost.

Watching children savage a harmless grandmother has inspired great generosity. The challenge now, for each of us, is to find such generosity in ourselves for those whose sufferings we'll never see.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

In reference to HB 17-226

This is on behalf of all the current government employees who longed for House Bill 17-226 to be passed. That did not happen due to the governor's veto of the bill. Many employees were hoping for the bill to pass as they are in dire need of this and they all have financial situations at this moment.

Mr. Governor, you do not know and feel the hardship of all who are suffering and for all the employees who have nowhere to go but get their limited paychecks due to the austerity and unpaid holidays. Just remember that they all need money to live, to pay bills, and get food, especially knowing that they do not have enough to feed their children with their minimal salary.

HB 17-226 would be a very big help even if its just 50 percent of their fund contribution but I'm sure it will help them as much as possible to fulfill their needs and all their debts they are currently encountering. Come on now, you have to reconsider this bill and help one another. I believe some leaders agree with this and were disappointed when they found out you vetoed this bill. I am a concerned citizen who witnessed the hardship and see most of the employees praying and hoping for this to be made possible. Think about it and act quickly on this urgent matter.

I hope that all you Leaders who did not agree with HB 17-226 would take a bit of your time to read this and reconsider.

Abigail Manglona
Songsong, Rota

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds around 10 mph.	Partly sunny with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88º ▼78º	▲87 º ▼78º	▲87º ▼78º	▲87º ▼78º	▲87º ▼78º

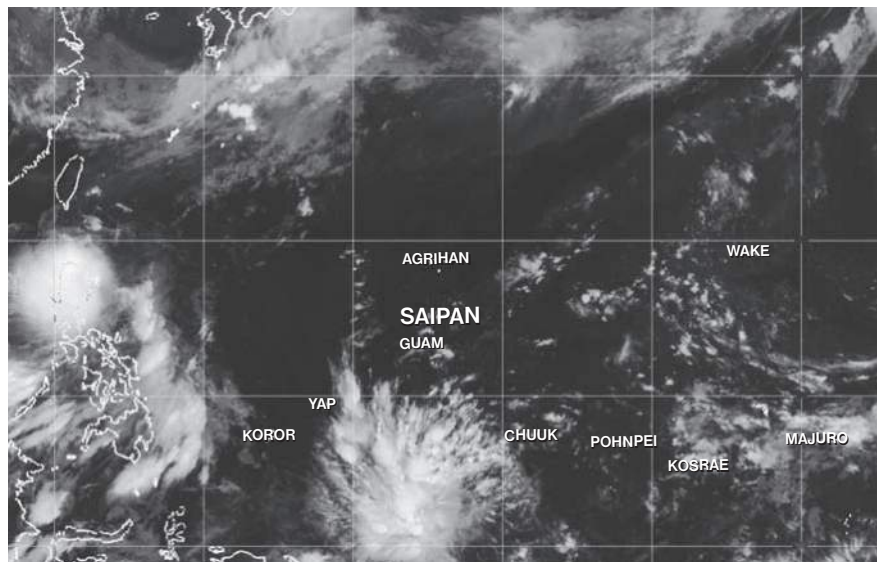
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼80
Palau	Showers	▲85	▼75
Yap	Showers	▲89	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲86	▼78
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼75
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼75
Majuro	Showers	▲86	▼81

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲56	▼42
Beijing	Sunny	▲88	▼68
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲87	▼81
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲83	▼73
London	Showers	▲69	▼58
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲80	▼61
Manila	Thundershowers	▲86	▼79
Melbourne	Showers	▲52	▼44
Miami	Thundershowers	▲90	▼76
New York	Thundershowers	▲94	▼73
Osaka	Thundershowers	▲80	▼71
Paris	Showers	▲73	▼56
Pusan	Thundershowers	▲79	▼71
Rome	Sunny	▲91	▼69
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲77	▼60
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲61	▼54
Seoul	Thundershowers	▲79	▼71
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲77	▼65
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲102	▼82

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, JUNE 28, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical Storm Doksuri is centered well northwest of Koror near the northern Philippines at 18N125E. Converging south winds well east of Doksuri are generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms west of Koror west of a line from 17N131E to 4N131E. A weak circulation is centered southwest of Chuuk near 2N145E. A surface trough extends northwest from the circulation to near Yap at 11N139E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are seen between Yap and Chuuk south of a line from 12N138E to 10N149E. Another surface trough north of Pohnpei extends northeastward from 12N156E to 18N160E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found southwest of Wake Island within 140 miles of a line from 16N156E to 18N161E to 14N163E. A trade-wind disturbance is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms across Kosrae state and the Marshall Islands between 5N and 10N from 161E to the dateline.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:21 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
10:44 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet
5:24 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet
10:14 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:50 AM	6:51 PM
Saturday	5:50 AM	6:51 PM
Sunday	5:50 AM	6:51 PM
Monday	5:51 AM	6:51 PM
Tuesday	5:51 AM	6:51 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	2:10 PM	1:08 AM
Saturday	3:12 PM	1:59 AM
Sunday	4:15 PM	2:54 AM
Monday	5:18 PM	3:54 AM
Tuesday	6:19 PM	4:57 AM

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  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 13, 2012

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)				**ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)**			
UA5062	2:40am	3:10am	1, 3, 5	UA5062	3:40am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				**GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN**			
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7	UA5062	2:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5 via ROP	UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily	UA5071	7:10am	8:00am	Daily
UA5074	11:30pm	12:20pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA5073	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily	UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5078	6:50pm	7:40pm	Daily	UA5077	5:25pm	6:15pm	Daily
UA5072	9:55pm	10:45pm	Daily	UA5079	8:35pm	9:25pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				**NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN**			
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily	DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				**SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN**			
0Z606	2:20am	6:00am	1	0Z603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
0Z606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	0Z605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily	0Z605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)				**GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN**			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				**SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN**			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				**MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN**			
0Z606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	DL172/288	7:50am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
0Z606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	UA190/5077	10:55am	6:15pm	3, 6 via GUM
				UA190/5079	10:55am	9:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM	0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
DL287/173	6:05am	10:00pm	Daily via NRT	0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM				
UA5076/193	3:10pm	10:25pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau	PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
0Z604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN	UA192/5071	9:45pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
				UA184/5071	11:25pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM
				0Z704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				**HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN**			
0Z606/721	2:20am	11:50pm	1 via ICN	0Z724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
0Z606/721	2:50am	11:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7
				0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:45pm	1, 5 via GUM	UA180/5071	10:35pm	8:00am+1	1, 5 via GUM
0Z604/723	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN				

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Igisomar on Obamacare

Insurance Commissioner Sixto K. Igisomar provided the media with the official Health and Human Services national press release on MLR, and additionally cautions the public on misinterpretations of Obamacare as it is politically known, or the common term of Affordable Care Act, "pee-Pahka" (PPACA), or "eHcera" (HCERA). These all mean one and the same.

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act or PPACA is the first act, followed by an amendment immediately thereafter under the Health Care Education and Reconciliation Act, or HCERA. As if the following acronyms are not enough, try adding the Public Health Service Act, or PHSA. For most people, especially those in the health insurance industry, these are clear and simple, but for most of us typical people in the street, we are easily misled by politics.

For the most part, the Obama Care (Obamacare) does not include territories. Most of the expansions were added or interpreted through Secretary Sebelius of HHS (Health and Human Services), via the PHSA, and only after representatives of territories—including Gov. Benigno R. Fitial—requested for inclusion in PPACA. As a result of Secretary Sebelius' intervention, much of the Obamacare federal grant assistance now extends to the CNMI to respond to Early Market Reforms, Rate Reviews, Medical Loss Ratios, Medicaid, External Reviews, and so on. The complexity surrounding the question of whether territories are to be covered by the Obamacare is the fact that the definition of states does not include the territories. A memo from the Congressional Research Service dated April 19, 2010, to Kilili and et al, shows that any serious inquiry of the Obamacare expansion to the territories came after the fact, and not during or before the passage of PL 111-148 (PPACA) or PL 111-152 (HCERA).

This question is important, as it will show how much effort the Insurance Commissioner and the Administration is working hard to make sure that the Obamacare is expanded to the CNMI but with proper guidance. Supported by only 53,000 population along with a challenged economy, and an insurance division that is staffed with only one personnel due to austerity measures, the Obamacare expansion requires diligent review for careful implementation to balance resources and provide a fair and balance consumer/insurance relationship. The current administration's outreach and dialogue with the Secretary Sebelius, Federal Regional Council – Region 9, and the Commissioner's active involvement with National Association of Insurance Commissioners has brought about many improvements in closing the gap and allowing Obamacare to actually aide the CNMI community.

On the Medial Loss Ratio, or MLR, no one is to take credit for this, except for the hardworking HHS staff and NAIC special committees that work hard to provide proper guidance to state regulators and to insurance carriers. In addition, most especially to Territory Head of State's for their efforts accepting the expansion based on Sebelius' interpretation. For the CNMI, the MLR press, as officially released by HHS, is only for a specific carrier offering Individual Plans here in the CNMI. The MLR rebate, although released and mandated by the Obamacare, for the CNMI, the MLR rebate is only attributed to the same company that normally rebates to health insurance customers every year—with little more; we need not mention the carrier and leave the announcements and press to them.

Furthermore, it is important to clarify that not everyone is to get the rebate, and not everyone may get the average amount stated earlier from other press releases. The rebate under the MLR is not as easy as dividing the total value by number of insureds. There are other factors that are involved and carriers may release the amounts lower than reported. Most importantly, do not plan on receiving $782 dollars for this Christmas. Call your health insurance company and ask on whether you are affected and how will you be getting your rebate; through offsets or however, and how much would it be.

For more information, contact Commerce at 664-3077 or email sec.igisomar@commerce.gov.mp.

Angel A. Demapan
Press secretary
Office of the Governor

Thank you

My family and I would like to extend our sincerest appreciation for your prayers and support during my medical referral to the Philippines. Once again, *un dangkulu na si yu'us ma'ase*, thank you, *olomwaay*, *maraming salamat po.* May God bless you all. From Andy John Sablan Estella and his family.

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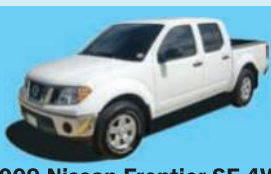

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Rota library grand opening set today

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rota residents will finally be able to access library services with the grand opening of the Antonio C. Atalig Memorial Rota Public Library at 1pm today.

Mayor Melchor Mendiola, members of the Rota Municipal Council and the CNMI Library Council, Rota lawmakers, educational partners, and other community leaders on island and throughout the Commonwealth are expected to take part in this historic celebration, said John O. Gonzales.

Gonzales, executive director of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, said the opening will unveil and bring online the last of the three public libraries on the CNMI's three major islands.

Two staffers of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library were sent to the Rota Public Library in March following the establishment's soft opening on Feb. 27. The two assisted the Rota staffers in the use of the library's information technology as well as in categorizing and cataloging collections.

Gonzales emphasized that communities will not prosper or thrive without a vibrant public library, which plays a role by satiating the search for knowledge and to produce an educated citizenry.

Gonzales urged CNMI residents and leaders, particularly those from Rota, to support the Rota Public Library. For more information, call 532-0120.

NMC FOUNDATION GOLF TOURNAMENT

Thousands of dollars worth of prizes up for grabs

There will be thousands of dollars worth of prizes up for grabs at the 10th Annual Northern Marianas College Foundation Open golf tournament set for this Saturday, June 30, 2012. The prizes include airfare tickets, a brand new 2012 Hyundai Elantra, various raffle prizes, and cash awards.

The first place winner for each flight will receive $500 and a roundtrip airfare ticket on United Airlines to various destinations in the Pacific. The second place winner will receive $300 and the players placing third in each category will receive $200. There are six flight categories: Championship, A, B, C, Ladies, and Seniors.

In addition to the flight prizes, there will be hole-in-one prizes, including a year of free rounds of golf at LaoLao Bay Golf Resort, $25,000 from AON Insurance, and a roundtrip ticket on United Airlines.

After the golf tournament, there will also be various raffle-drawing prizes, including $2,500 in products and services from Docomo, high-end luxury handbags from DFS Galleria, and much more.

The 10th Annual NMC Foundation Open golf tournament is organized by the NMC Foundation with assistance from the college's staff, faculty and students. The NMC Foundation is composed of community volunteers committed to elevating higher education opportunities in the CNMI.

"The NMC Foundation would like to invite golfers to come out and play for a great cause," said NMC Foundation president Ivan Quichocho. "The event promises to be fun and memorable."

The tournament will take place at the LaoLao Bay Golf Resort's West Course. The golf tournament has a show time of 6am with a shotgun start at 7am and will follow a medal play format.

Those interested in playing can download a registration form at www.nmcnet.edu or pick up a form at the Marianas Country Club, Saipan Country Club, Dandan Golf Range, Kingfisher Golf Links, and All Star Sporting Goods. Forms are also available at the NMC Cashier's Office, LaoLao Bay Golf Resort, or Triple J Motors.

Payments for the registration fee can be made at Laolao Bay Golf Resort, Triple J Motors, and the NMC Cashier's Office. The fee is $95 per person.

For more information, log on to www.nmcnet.edu or call 234-5498 Ext. 1050 or 1051. ***(NMC)***

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Whole Chicken 30lbs $38.99 LIMIT

Pork Spareribs 20lbs $22.99 LIMIT

Babyribs 10lbs $22.99 LIMIT

Vega Shrimps $5.79 LB. LIMIT

King Chef Vegetable Oil 5gal $31.99

Mega Butane Gas $22.99 CASE

GROCERIES

Ox & Palm Corned Beef $2.99 11.5 OZ.

Spam All Kinds $2.39 EA

Black Label Luncheon $1.79 EA..

Libby's Vienna Sausage 59¢ 5 OZ.

Ace of Diamond Tuna $1.29 7 OZ.

Beach Cliff Sardines 99¢

Century Tuna 89¢ 7 OZ.

Waioka Tuna 89¢

Armour Treet Luncheon Loaf $1.69

Hormel Chili with Beans $1.69 15 OZ.

Hormel Chili No Beans $1.79 15 OZ.

Kikkoman Soy Sauce $3.99 1.6 L.

Morton Salt 89¢ 450 gm

Vlasic Sliced Dill Pickle $6.49 1 GAL.

Dinty Moore Beef Stew $1.69 15 OZ.

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Campbells Chicken Noodle 89¢ 10 OZ.

Del Monte Spaghetti Sauce (all kinds) $1.39 26.5oz.

Del Monte Whole Corn 99¢ 15 OZ.

Kellogg's Tri-pak 58 oz. $13.99

General MIlls Tri-pak $8.99

Argo Corn Starch 99¢ 1 LB.

Gold Medal Flour $3.25 37.02 OZ.

Duncan Hines Cake Mix $1.99

Country Lime Lemonade $7.99

Tang Orange $7.99 22 QTS.

Kool-Aid $7.99 34 QTS.

Coffee Mate $7.99 50 OZ.

Folgers Coffee $11.99 33.3 OZ.

Maxwell Coffee Mix $7.99 100CT.

Fresco Vegetable Oil $9.49 1 GAL.

Dragon Vegetable Oil $9.49 1 GAL.

DelMonte Ketchup $4.69 2 64 OZ.

Royal Spaghetti Noodle $2.49 1 kg.

Foremost Milk $20.99

White Sugar 2kg $2.79 2 KG.

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Ruby Kist Orange Juice $3.79 64oz.

Ruby Kist Apple Juice $3.99 64oz.

Pepsi Lite Can $11.99 CASE LIMIT

Jinro Soju $29.99 CASE

Hite Can $16.99 CASE

PRODUCE

Onion 59¢ LB.

Potato 79¢ LB.

Cabbage 89¢ LB.

Korean Pear $2.99 LB.

Broccoli $1.49 LB.

Celo Apple $3.99 /BAG

Orange 99¢ LB.

Honeydew/ Cantaloupe 99¢ LB.

Garlic $1.25 5 PCS.

U.S. X-Large Eggs $2.25 1 DOZ.

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Bar S Jumbo Franks $1.19

Millers Sausage $16.99

Bar S Ham $18.99 10LBS.

Bar S Bacon $3.25

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Ground Pork $22.49 10LBS.

Tilapia $1.09 /LB.

Milk Fish $1.49 /LB.

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Sea Wave Calanari $1.89 16oz.

S.C. Frozen Shrimp $3.59 16oz.

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Clorox $3.29 96 OZ.

Purex $4.49 50 OZ.

Gain Liquid $6.49 50 OZ. / $10.99 100 OZ.

Gain Powder 120 loads $16.99 50 OZ.

Joy Ultra $1.49 12.5 OZ. / $6.99 90 OZ.

Dawn Dishwashing Soap $8.99 90 oz.

Suave Shampoo & Conditioner 2 for $3.00

Head & Shoulders Shampoo $7.99 23OZ.

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Luvs Big $17.99 BOX

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Kim's Tofu and Restaurant celebrates first anniversary

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

WHAT'S COOKING?

Experience authentic Korean cuisine at Kim's Tofu and Restaurant, a modest and undiscovered culinary haven that will be celebrating its first anniversary next month.

Kim's Tofu and Restaurant is tucked in a quiet neighborhood of Oleai near the village's public elementary school and has been serving popular Korean dishes based on homemade recipes of owner and manager Mee Yeon Lee.

CONTACT INFO
Tel: 234-7191/483-3532

The establishment started out as a factory for tofu, bean sprouts, and rice cakes and was very popular in the olden days when garment factories were prospering. It became popular as Kim's Tofu and Beansprout—named after the former owner Song Lim Kim.

No matter how well-received the place was for producing fresh and quality tofu, Kim's Tofu and Beansprout yielded to the demise of the garment factory era, prompting its owner to sell the business.

It was Mrs. Lee and husband Sung Chun Lee who took over the company and carried on the factory venture, adding a snack bar-restaurant-catering business that gave birth to Kim's Tofu and Restaurant.

What the place lacks in ambience makes up for in food, with Kim's Tofu and Restaurant riding on the Korean food wave by serving up a gamut of nutritious Korean fares.

CLARISSA V. DAVID
Mee Yeon Lee and Sung Cheon Lee, the Korean couple behind the success of Kim's Tofu and Restaurant which is celebrating its first anniversary next month.

CLARISSA V. DAVID
Affordable lunch sets served with heaps of appetizing Korean side dishes are available at Kim's Tofu and Restaurant located along Oleai St. near the village's public elementary school. This picture shows lunch set for two for only $16.

"I wanted to introduce natural and healthy Korean food to the people on Saipan because everywhere you go here, the food they serve are all meat and cooked in so much oil and a lot of MSG," said Lee, who has been on Saipan since 1996.

A teacher by profession, Lee said this is the second restaurant she has owned and managed from the time of her arrival. She used to run Sashimi House in Chalan Kanoa, which is now operated by her sister-in-law.

"I really love to cook, that's why I got into the restaurant and catering business," Lee told *Saipan Tribune*.

Lee's penchant for cooking and her resolve to promote healthy food prompted her to come up with wholesome Korean dishes.

Kim's Tofu and Restaurant's menu features impeccably prepared cuisines—from appetizers to main entrees—that feature the tofu and bean sprouts they themselves manufacture.

Lee recommends the Combination Tofu Soup, a shrimp-based soup with generous servings of tofu dumpling, tofu meatballs, and tofu sandwich. Soup selection also includes Seafood Soft Tofu Soup, Vegetable Bean Curd Soup, and the delightful Soft Tofu Soup with Egg.

To make the dishes affordable, Kim's Tofu and Restaurant also offers lunch sets of Bibimbap, Beef Bulgogi, Spicy Pork, and Spicy Beef Soup at $5 each. Lee noted that they also serve special lunch set at $8 per person, which includes not just a main course that varies everyday but also heaps of appetizing side dishes.

At dinnertime, diners can order succulent Korean-barbecued meat: pork, chicken, and short ribs for only $10 or $15 per person.

Other a la carte items such as Chapchae or Korean pancit, Sweet and Sour Fish, and Sushi are also available. Kim's Tofu and Restaurant also sells reasonably priced tofu, mongo sprouts, bean sprouts, kimchi, marinated pork, or chicken by the pound.

In celebration of their first anniversary, Lee said that they will be serving Korean rice cake and ginger tea for free to dine-in customers for the whole month of July.

"We have customers of diverse nationalities and we want to encourage more community members, especially those who don't know about Kim's Tofu and Restaurant, to try us out and taste authentic and healthy Korean cooking," said Lee.

Lee said they also accept catering orders and parties at Kim's Tofu and Restaurant, which seats about 30 to 40 individuals. She recommends that dine-in customers call in advance so they can prepare the orders and serve them when they get to the restaurant.

Visit Kim's Tofu and Restaurant next to Kim's Mini-Mart and Coin-op Laundry along Oleai St. or call 234-7191 or 483-3532 for orders, reservations or more information.

Apartment and Condominium for Rent

GILL BLAS CONDOMINIUM

One Year Contract: Regular Price from ~~$650.00~~ NOW $500.00
Monthly Basis: Price Ranges from $550.00
Power and Water EXCLUDED
LOCATION: Lower Miha, GARAPAN, where 747 Dining & Bar is situated
AMENITIES:
- 24-hr water supply
- Common waste container
- Free moving-service
- On-duty security guard at night
- Parking space
- Back-up generator
- Furnished unit w/ balcony
- Laundry facility
- On-site maintenance
- Swimming pool

SEDA BLANCA APARTMENT

Monthly Basis: Studio Type - $350.00 • 1 Bedroom - $450.00
Power and Water EXCLUDED
LOCATION: Lower Miha, GARAPAN, nearby 747 Dining & Bar
AMENITIES:
- 24-hr water supply
- Common waste container
- Free moving-service
- On-site maintenance
- Back-up generator
- Furnished unit w/ balcony
- Laundry facility
- Parking space

PASTEL INN APARTMENT

One Year Contract: Studio – Regular Price ~~$350.00~~ NOW $250.00
2 Bedroom Regular Price ~~$550.00~~ NOW $400.00
Monthly Basis: Studio Type - $270.00 • 2 Bedroom - $420.00
LOCATION: SAN JOSE, right next to Roshi's Store (along Beach Rd)
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GILL BLAS CONDOMINIUM
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Are you 18 years or older?

Have you been providing unpaid services to family members?

Been dependent on the income of another family member but no longer supported by that income and are you unemployed or underemployed and experiencing difficulty obtaining or upgrading employment?

If you answer "Yes" to all of these questions, contact WIA at (670) 664-1704/5, 7 & 8 (Saipan), (670) 433-1700 (Tinian), or (670) 532-1701 (Rota). You may be able to qualify for services as a Displaced Homemaker under WIA's Dislocated Worker Funding Program. All other program eligibility requirements applies.

Dislocated Worker Funding Program

- **U.S. Citizen or Registered Alien**
- **Meet Selective Service Requirements**
- **Have received the required Eligibility for services**
- **Must be 18 years or older**

Category A: General Dislocated Workers. To qualify, an individual must meet the following three criteria:

1. Has been terminated or laid off, or has received a notice of termination or layoff, form employment;
2. Is eligible for or has exhausted entitlement to unemployment compensation; OR has been employed or attached to the workforce for a duration sufficient to demonstrate to WIA, but is not eligible for unemployment compensation due to insufficient earnings or having performed services for an employer that were not covered under a state unemployment compensation law; and
3. Is unlikely to return to a previous industry or occupation.

Category B: Plant Closure. To qualify, an individual must meet one of the following three criteria:

1. Has been terminated or laid off, or has received a notice of termination or layoff, from employment as a result of any permanent closure of, or any substantial layoff at, plant, facility, or enterprise;
2. Is employed at a facility at which the employer has made a general announcement that such family close within 180 days; or
3. For purpose of eligibility to receive services other that training, intensive or supportive services under WIA, is employed at a facility at which the employer has made general announcement that such facility will close.

Category C: Self Employed or Unemployed. To qualify, an individual must meet the following criteria:

1. Was self employed (including employment as a farmer, a rancher, or a fisherman) but is unemployed as a result of general economic conditions in the community in which the individual resides or because of natural disasters.

CONTACT INFORMATION
Saipan: (670) 664-1704/1707/1708/1757 • **Fax:** (670) 664-1710
Tinian: (670) 433-1701 • **Rota:** (670) 532-1701
Email: gov.wia@pticom.com

This community outreach is funded by a grant made possible under the USDOL Employment and Training Administration.

Business

Stockton bankruptcy is hard hit for city retirees

STOCKTON, Calif. (AP)—When Stockton becomes the largest U.S. city ever to file for bankruptcy, it will strike a hard blow to residents, especially city employees and retirees whose health benefits and pensions helped drive the city toward insolvency.

City Manager Bob Deis said late Tuesday that officials were left with little choice but to recommend bankruptcy after failing to hammer out deals with creditors to ease the city's $26 million budget shortfall.

Deis expects the city to file for Chapter 9 protection by Friday.

Stockton will join a number of other cities and counties across the nation that have plunged into financial crisis as the recession made it tough to cover rising costs involving current and former employees, bondholders and vendors.

"What's going on in Stockton is endemic to what's going on all over the state and the country," said Michael Sweet, a San Francisco bankruptcy attorney at Fox Rothschild LLP. "Local governments are hurting and strained under the current pension and compensation systems. These systems are not appropriate for the type of economy this country has evolved into."

At a standing room-only Stockton City Council meeting Tuesday, numerous former city employees talked about their life-threatening medical conditions and said cuts to their health benefits prompted by the city's financial straits meant they would, in effect, lose their insurance.

"Some people will be devastated. There are those who have such severe medical problems that they will not be taken up by any medical company," said Gary Gillis, a retired fire chief on the board of directors of the city retiree association. "This plan appears to be a sledgehammer or a machete."

Several retirees broke down in tears after the city approved changes to their medical benefits as part of a bankruptcy budget adopted by the City Council.

"For me, bankruptcy might as well be a life sentence," said Gary Jones, a retired police officer, who was diagnosed with a brain tumor 10 years ago. Jones said his medical insurance enabled him to undergo chemotherapy and other treatments, which he said will be unaffordable at the lower level of coverage.

During the past three years, the city has dealt with $90 million in deficits in part through drastic cuts in police and fire personnel, even as residents said they have to deal with recurring break-ins and robberies, a climbing murder rate, homelessness and plummeting property values.

Once a beneficiary of the housing boom, the city now has the second-highest foreclosure rate in the nation. Its unemployment rate has doubled in the past decade and now hovers around 16 percent while a fifth of residents live below the poverty line.

"The average citizen will not put up with this," said Gregory Pitsch, a 22-year-old unemployed resident who made an unsuccessful run for mayor. "Their home prices have plummeted, they have no jobs, a lot of people are getting fed up so that they have to resort to crime."

Betty Garcia, who co-owns a downtown jewelry store with her husband, said her community is starting a neighborhood watch group to respond to a rise in crime and lack of police response, which they expect will only get worse.

"We already hear gunshots every night," Garcia said. "It's becoming like listening to the train go by. People don't even call the cops anymore."

Experts say municipalities such as Stockton must find a way to lower their contractual obligations to current and former employees as the cost of health care skyrockets and people are living longer.

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- Must be able to brainstorm and mock up new design ideas
- Must be detail & deadline oriented
- Must be able to work Evenings/Overtime if needed
- Must be 18 yrs of age or older

MarPac Dist., Inc Offers competitive salaries commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Applications may be picked up and submitted at the MARPAC office located in Gualo Rai Village – Saipan. Deadline of submission is on July 6, 2012.

NO TELEPHONE CALLS PLEASE.

As condition of Employment, MARPAC requires proof of identity and Eligibility to work in the CNMI. Drug testing, Police and Court Clearance.

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P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED BIDS for Terminal Improvements, Phase I at the Tinian International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Project No. CPA-TA-002-08 will be received at the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada / Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP, 96950,

All Bids shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: Tinian International Airport, Terminal Improvements, Phase I, Project No. CPA-TA-002-08 and must be submitted no later than **2:00 PM on FRIDAY, July 13, 2012** to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed Bids will be publicly opened and read.

The Project, in general, consists of, but is not limited to, demolition, building and site improvements, including concrete foundations, concrete slab-on-grade, cast-in-place concrete, roof membrane, metal roofing, thermal insulation, concrete masonry unit walls, non-structural metal framing, carpentry, gypsum board, ceramic tiles, resilient flooring, acoustical ceilings, aluminum doors and frames, aluminum windows, glazing, cabinetry, toilet partitions, toilet accessories, painting, ventilation, air conditioning, plumbing, electrical lighting and power, complete and ready for use all in accordance with the Project Drawings and Specifications.

The Project is being financed by funds from CNMI Capital Improvement Program. The Contract award, if it is made, will be made within ninety (90) calendar days of the receipt of Bid Proposals. CPA reserves the right to hold such Bids in effect for one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the date of Bid opening.

The Contract period for construction of the Project in its entirety shall be One Hundred Eighty (180) calendar days. Liquidated damages in the amount of Three Hundred Dollars ($300.00) shall be assessed the Contractor for each calendar day that completion of the Project is delayed beyond the Contract completion date without approved excuse.

The apparent low Bidder may be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." The review will include, but is not necessarily limited to, previous projects experience, financial capability, quantity and quality of equipment and personnel, and ability to secure bonding and insurance. If the apparent low Bidder is found to be not "responsive and responsible", their Bid will be rejected and the next lowest Bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

All mechanics and laborers on the Project shall be paid not less than the minimum wage rate established by CNMI Law or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. The Contractor shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract. A copy of the CNMI Minimum Wage Rate Determination is included in the General Provisions, Section 70-25.

Each Bidder must complete, sign, and furnish the "Bidder's Statement on Previous Contracts Subject to EEO Clause", a "Certification of Non-Segregated Facilities", and the "Assurance of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises Participation", as contained in the Bid Proposal documents, with submission of their Bid Proposal.

A CD-Rom containing the Bid Proposal and Contract Documents, including Drawings and Specifications, may be obtained at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada / Saipan International Airport, upon payment of TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS ($200.00) for each set of documents in electronic form, including the Bid Schedule. The payment is non-refundable. Payment shall be made in cash, cashier's check or U.S. postal Money Order made payable to the "Commonwealth Ports Authority".

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at CPA, Conference Room, Tinian International Airport, at **10:00 am, FRIDAY, JUNE 29, 2012**, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this Project. All prospective Bidders are required to attend. Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, at least seven (7) days prior to the Pre-Bid Conference.

Bid Proposals shall be submitted on the Bid Schedule form included on the CD-Rom obtained from the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all Bids submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding Bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the Bid Schedule or misentry of the quantity of line items; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the Project Contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said Bids if, in its sole opinion, to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

Each Bidder must supply all information required by the Bid Proposal documents and Specifications.

The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the Specifications. Bid Proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority office.

A Contractor having 50 or more employees and any subcontractor having 50 or more employees and who may be awarded a contract of Fifty Thousand Dollars ($50,000.00) or more, will be required to maintain an affirmative action program, the standards for which are contained in the Specifications. To be eligible for award, each Bidder must comply with the affirmative action requirements.

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit Bids in response to this Invitation and will not be discriminated against, on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin in consideration for an award of any Contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement.

Women will be afforded equal opportunity in all areas of employment. However, the employment of women shall not diminish the standards or requirements for employment of minorities.

Each Bid shall be accompanied by either a Bid Bond issued by a U.S. Treasury listed surety company, a Certified Check, or a Cashier's Check in an amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the Bid Price. Checks shall be made payable to the "Commonwealth Ports Authority".

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ JOSE R. LIFOIFOI
Board Chairman / Contracting Officer

Date: June 11, 2012

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Upbeat US economic figures help stocks advance

BANGKOK (AP)—Good news about the U.S. economy helped Asian stock markets rise Thursday, although lingering fears about Europe's ability to tame its debt turmoil kept gains in check. U.S. government figures showed that durable goods orders rose by 1.1 percent in May after two months of declines. On top of that, a report showed that pending home sales jumped in May, the latest signal that the U.S. housing market may be improving in many regions following a slump of more than six years. A recovery in the U.S. housing market is considered one of the key elements toward a stable and long-lasting economic recovery and it helped investors brush aside ongoing worries about Europe's debt crisis.

Report: News Corp. board approves company split

NEW YORK (AP)—The board of directors at Rupert Murdoch's News Corp. has approved a plan that calls for splitting the global media conglomerate into two separate companies, one holding its newspaper business and another its entertainment operations, according to a report in The Wall Street Journal. The Journal, which is News Corp.'s flagship newspaper, cited a person familiar with the situation late Wednesday saying the board voted unanimously to approve the plan. It said the move is expected to be announced early Thursday. News Corp. spokeswoman Julie Henderson had no comment on the report.

Nation

Health ruling to end campaign mystery, unleash ads

WASHINGTON (AP)—Barely four months before the nation votes, one of the biggest factors in the fight for the White House still is a mystery. That will change on Thursday.

The Supreme Court's expected ruling on President Barack Obama's sweeping federal health care law will shape the contours of the presidential campaign through the summer and fall. Both Obama and Republican rival Mitt Romney are primed to use the ruling—whatever it is—for political gain.

Obama expresses confidence the court will uphold his signature legislative initiative. But he won't be shocked if a conservative majority overturns the most controversial provision, those familiar with his thinking say. Romney aides say the Republican candidate will get a political boost if the court strikes down the measure. But they don't want celebrations that could alienate voters who could lose health care benefits through the decision.

Neither candidate has any direct influence over the decision. The court may uphold the health care law, strike it down or deem the requirement that most Americans carry health insurance unconstitutional while keeping other aspects in place.

ACROSS THE NATION

Tests find only marijuana in face-chewer's system

MIAMI (AP)—Lab tests detected only marijuana in the system of a Florida man shot while chewing on another man's face, the medical examiner said Wednesday, ruling out other street drugs including the components typically found in the stimulants known as "bath salts." There has been much speculation about what drugs, if any, would lead to the bizarre behavior that authorities said Rudy Eugene exhibited before and during the gruesome attack that left the other man horribly disfigured. A Miami police union official had suggested that Eugene, who was shot and killed by an officer, was probably under the influence of bath salts.

Heat wave: 1,000+ records fall in US in a week

Feeling hot? It's not a mirage. Across the United States, hundreds of heat records have fallen in the past week. From the wildfire-consumed Rocky Mountains to the bacon-fried sidewalks of Oklahoma, the temperatures are creating consequences ranging from catastrophic to comical. In the past week, 1,011 records have been broken around the country, including 251 new daily high temperature records on Tuesday. *(AP)*

Asia

Manila says Chinese boats back in disputed lagoon

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Chinese fishing boats have returned to a lagoon in a disputed South China Sea shoal despite an agreement to clear the area of all vessels, dashing hopes of an early resolution of a territorial rift with the Philippines, officials in Manila said Wednesday.

Meanwhile, Vietnam protested a Chinese state oil company's invitation for bids for energy development in different area of the South China Sea, adding to concern that tension in the disputed waters could escalate.

Various longstanding disputes involving China, the Philippines, Vietnam, Taiwan, Malaysia and Brunei straddle busy sea lanes that are believed to be rich in oil and gas deposits. Many fear the disputes could spark a violent conflict.

The current standoff be-

AP

Philippine President Benigno Aquino III, left, speaks during the joint celebration of the 114th Philippine Independence Day, 37th Anniversary of Philippine-China Diplomatic Relations and the 11th Filipino Chinese Friendship Day at a Manila hotel, Philippines on Wednesday June 13, 2012. The Philippines and China are still locked in a maritime standoff over a shoal in the south china sea that began on April 10.

tween China and the Philippines in the Scarborough Shoal off the northwestern Philippines began in April when the Philippines accused Chinese fishermen of poaching in its exclusive economic zone, including the shoal. During the tensions, both sides sent government ships to the area.

A recent agreement saw both countries withdraw vessels, but the Philippines Department of Foreign Affairs spokesman, Raul Hernandez, said six Chinese fishing boats and 17 smaller dinghies were spotted by a Philippine plane inside the lagoon on Monday afternoon. He said five Chinese government ships were sighted outside the lagoon in the vicinity of the shoal.

Hernandez urged China to abide by its commitment in talks aimed at diffusing the rift.

"It is important for parties in negotiations and discussion on any issue to always act in good faith," he told reporters.

The Chinese Embassy in Manila did not immediately reply to a request for comment.

The United States, which says it has a national interest in the maintenance of peace and stability in the South China Sea, urged calm on both sides.

In Celebration of their New Lives

Elias Eugene Wabol Nekaifes (Master Lee)
February 11, 1975 – June 23, 2012

Antonio Alejandro Wabol Nekaifes (Xcaliber)
January 20, 1976 – June 23, 2012

David Jr. Wabol Nekaifes (Juña)
November 4, 1981 – June 23, 2012

Elias and David Jr. now joins their loving parents:
†David L. Nekaifes and †Carmen W. Nekaifes

Antonio now joins his reared father:
†Andres T. Igisaiar

Elias will be greatly missed by his:
Sisters and Brother: Brigida N. Kapileo / Patricio I. Kapileo & Children
Rita W. Nekaifes / Michael Mettao
Nieves W. Nekaifes
Jermaine Joseph W. Nekaifes / Nina S. Nekaifes & Children
Marilynn Carmelita W. Nekaifes
Agrapina N. Rahman / Sajjad Rahman & Children
Asuncion W. Nekaifes

Antonio will be greatly missed by his:
Reared Mother: Margarita N. Igisaiar
Common-law Spouse: Alvina I. Somorang
Children: Princess Megan S. Nekaifes, Piimaiyo S. Nekaifes and Seirrumwi Maggie S. Nekaifes And Sisters and Brother
Mother-in-law: Anuncia Igisomar

David will be greatly missed by his:
Wife: Zina Camacho Nekaifes
Children: Jayson John Camacho, Teisha Helena Camacho, Hector Boboy Camacho, Zared David Zavier C. Nekaifes, Davin Zachary C. Nekaifes, Zayden Darren C. Nekaifes And Sisters and Brother
Mother-in-law: Rita Rosario Camacho

They will all be also greatly missed by numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, in-laws and god children.

Nightly rosary is being said at the Kristo Rai Church at 7:30pm. On Monday July 2, 2012 their remains will leave CHC Morgue at 8:30am and will be escorted to Mt. Carmel Cathedral. Responso service will be at 9:00am. The Mass of Christian Burial will be offered at 3:00pm. Interment service will follow at the Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

Your Prayers are greatly appreciated.

Nekaifes Sisters and brother, Zina, Kids and Family, Margarita, Alvina and Kids and Families.

Taliban video shows 17 beheaded Pakistani soldiers

DERA ISMAIL KHAN, Pakistan (AP)—The Taliban released a video Wednesday that they say shows the heads of 17 Pakistani soldiers captured in a cross-border raid from Afghanistan this week and beheaded.

In violence Wednesday, a bomb in a railway station in Pakistan's southwest killed at least five people, police said, and the leader of an anti-Taliban militia was killed in Peshawar in the northwest.

The Pakistani Taliban's bloody cross-border raid Sunday night showed the threat still posed by the group, despite multiple army offensives. Increasingly, the militants have used sanctuaries in eastern Afghanistan to attack border areas in Pakistan's northwest.

Pakistan has criticized NATO and Afghan forces for not doing enough to stop the attacks, but it has received little sympathy. The Afghan government and its allies have long faulted Pakistan for failing to target Afghan Taliban militants and their allies who use Pakistani territory to launch attacks in Afghanistan.

The Pakistani and Afghan Taliban are allies, but the former has focused on fighting the Pakistani government, while the latter has concentrated on attacking foreign and local forces in Afghanistan.

The Pakistani Taliban said in the video that they killed 18 soldiers, but 17 heads were displayed on a bloody white sheet on the ground outside. Several militants whose faces were covered were standing around the heads, holding weapons they said were captured from the soldiers.

The Associated Press obtained the video by email Wednesday from Pakistani Taliban spokesman Ahsanullah Ahsan.

The beginning of the video contains a voice recording by Pakistani Taliban chief Hakimullah Mehsud in which he says the militants will continue to battle the army until Pakistan's government stops supporting the U.S. and enforces Islamic law throughout the country. It was unclear when the message was recorded.

ASIAN BRIEFS

4 dead, 130 rescued from capsizing off Aussie isle

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Four people are believed to have died and 130 others were rescued after a crowded boat carrying asylum seekers to Australia capsized and sank Wednesday, less than a week after more than 90 people drowned on a similar journey. The incident, which occurred midway between Australia's Christmas Island and the main Indonesian island of Java, has renewed Australian government efforts to deter a growing stream of boat arrivals by legislating to deport them to other Southeast Asian or Pacific countries. An air and sea search for survivors ended late Wednesday when the Australian Maritime Safety Authority determined that no one beyond the 130 rescued had survived the sinking of the wooden Indonesian fishing boat. Only one body had been recovered.

Landslides, floods kill 91 in southern Bangladesh

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—Landslides and floods caused by heavy monsoon rains killed at least 91 people in southern Bangladesh and many more were missing, the government said Wednesday. Officials said the landslides occurred mainly in remote villages with poor roads, making rescue work more difficult. At least 37 died in Cox's Bazar, 33 in neighboring Bandarban and another 21 in Chittagong, mostly in a series of landslides, the Disaster Management Ministry said. It said soldiers were joining the search for the missing.

World

Queen, ex-IRA chief shake hands

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP)—Queen Elizabeth II and a former Irish Republican Army commander offered each other the hand of peace Wednesday in a long-awaited encounter symbolizing Northern Ireland's progress in achieving reconciliation after decades of violence.

The monarch and Martin McGuinness met privately inside Belfast's riverside Lyric Theatre during a cross-community arts event featuring Northern Ireland musicians, poets and artists.

Media were barred from seeing their first handshake during an ice-breaker over coffee and tea. But the two shook hands again a half-hour later for the cameras' benefit, documenting a moment that would have been inconceivable back in the days when IRA leaders were plotting to kill the British royal family. McGuinness' Irish nationalist Sinn Fein party had never attended a royal function before.

Underlying the sensitivity of the occasion, no live footage or sound was permitted to be broadcast. Outside, flak-jacketed police shut down all roads surrounding the theater and told residents to stay inside their homes.

Both smiled broadly as McGuinness took the queen's white-gloved hand and spoke to her for about 5 seconds. Afterward McGuinness said he had told her in Gaelic—a language neither of them speaks—"Slán agus beannacht" and told her this meant "goodbye and godspeed." The latter word actually means "blessing."

The 86-year-old head of state, resplendent in a suit and broad-brimmed hat of matching apple green, didn't speak but kept smiling as she shared a stage with a man linked to the killing of her cousin Lord Louis Mountbatten. Experts on Irish republicanism say McGuinness, 62, was the IRA's chief of staff when the outlawed group blew up Mountbatten's yacht in 1979, killing the 79-year-old and three others.

McGuinness quickly left afterward. "It went really well. I'm still a republican," he said in response to a reporter's question as he stepped into his chauffeur-driven government car.

AP

Britain's Queen Elizabeth II shakes hands with Northern Ireland Deputy First Minister and former IRA commander Martin McGuinness watched by First minister Peter Robinson, centre, at the Lyric Theatre in Belfast, Northern Ireland, Wednesday, June 27, 2012.

Syria violence escalates as US seeks turning point

BEIRUT (AP)—Gunmen attacked a pro-government TV station Wednesday near the Syrian capital, killing seven employees in the latest barrage of violence as world powers prepared for a high-level meeting that the U.S. hopes will be a turning point in the crisis.

Invitations to Saturday's gathering in Geneva were sent by special envoy Kofi Annan to the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council—including Syrian allies Russia and China—but not to major regional players Iran and Saudi Arabia.

The absence of those two countries, as well as the lack of any appetite for international military intervention, could make it difficult for the group to find the leverage to end the bloodshed in Syria. An effort by Annan to broker a peace plan failed earlier this year.

Diplomatic hopes have rested on Russia—Syria's most important ally and protector—agreeing on a transition plan that would end the Assad family dynasty, which has ruled Syria for more than four decades. But Moscow has rejected efforts by outside forces to end the conflict or any plan to force regime change in Damascus.

The United Nations said Wednesday that the conflict, which began in March 2011 as part of the Arab Spring that swept aside entrenched leaders across the region, is descending into sectarian warfare.

President Bashar Assad has so far appeared largely impervious to world pressure and he has warned the international community from meddling in the crisis, which has seen a sharp escalation in violence in recent months. He said this week that his country is in "a genuine state of war," an increasingly common refrain from the Syrian leader.

Merkel backs Europe-wide growth pact

PARIS (AP)—Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel rallied Wednesday for a (EURO)130 billion ($162 billion) Europe-wide stimulus package in a gesture to French President Francois Hollande—but the two leaders remained at odds over the bigger, tougher steps needed to end Europe's spiraling debt crisis.

The so-called "growth pact" was the only obvious area of agreement as Hollande and Merkel went into talks Wednesday night meant to set the stage for a closely watched summit of European Union leaders in Brussels on Thursday and Friday.

Earlier in the day, Merkel brushed aside the latest push to pool European debt, arguing that it would be "economically wrong and counterproductive" before governments have shown they can comply with budget rules.

Pressure has been mounting on Germany from the other leading economies in the eurozone to soften its opposition to joinly issued eurobonds or other forms of debt pooling.

Hollande, who won election last month campaigning against austerity policies championed by Merkel, has pushed for the (EURO)130 billion stimulus package and smiled broadly when Merkel, standing stiffly at his side, offered her endorsement.

"We have made progress toward a pact for growth, which we hope can be decided tomorrow. We will then talk about the political future of the economic and currency union," said Merkel.

Amid increasing fears that the eurozone could break up, both the German and French leaders said Wednesday they want "more Europe"—meaning closer union among European countries.

But they disagree on how to get there: Merkel wants strong political union first, with centralized control of national budgets, before considering eurobonds or other financial integration.

Death & Funeral Announcement

†Jose Pangelinan Mafnas

Lovingly known as "Cheling"

Born to Life on October 1, 1943
Was called to Eternal Life on June 15, 2012 in California.

In his new life he now joins his:
Fathers: *†Juan Rios Mafnas*
†Jose Aguon Concepcion
Brother: *† Jesus Pangelinan Mafnas*

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:
Wife: *Liberty Legaspi Mafnas*
Mother: *Victoria Pangelinan Concepcion*
Parents-in-Law: *Luciano & Maria Legaspi*

Children/Spouses and Grandchildren:
Thelma Tina Mafnas Flores & George III (Jayvan, Poima, Shaylene)
Eric John Tudela Mafnas & Velma (Kiara, Marian, Juana, Eric John (Jr.), Tahani, Jose, Michael)
Marian May Mafnas Guerrero & Anthony (Britton)
Frankie Joe Tudela Mafnas (Terrence, Kaela and Journey)
Joely Ann Mafnas
Eizel Charm Legaspi Mafnas
Yveth Marie Legaspi Mafnas
Jose Legaspi Mafnas, Jr.

Brother, Sisters and In-Laws:
Susana T. Mafnas &†Jesus, Maria Pangelinan Mafnas, Theresita Pangelinan Mafnas, Antonia Mafnas Apatang & David, Antonio Pangelinan Mafnas & Cynthia, Malou Smith, Nilo Legaspi, Ellen Legaspi, Danny Legaspi, Gary Legaspi, Arlene Delos Reyes, Marsha Legaspi

He is additionally survived by numerous uncles, aunts, cousins, nieces, nephews and friends.

Daily Mass of Intentions is being celebrated at 6:00 pm, San Antonio Church.

On Saturday, June 30, 2012, our Beloved Jose's remains will be taken from Borja's Funeral Home at 7:30 am to San Antonio Church. Responso Services will be at 8:00 am followed by Holy Rosary and public viewing. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 am followed by interment service at Mount Carmel Cemetery.

Your thoughts, prayers, love and support are greatly appreciated.

Thank you, Si Yuus Maase, Olomwaay and Salamat Po.

The Family

Science & Technology

Google sells small tablet, challenges Kindle Fire

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Google unveiled its attempt to catch up to Apple and Amazon in the growing market for tablet computers. It also provided a titillating glimpse at its vision of a digital future through the mind-boggling lens of Internet-connected glasses.

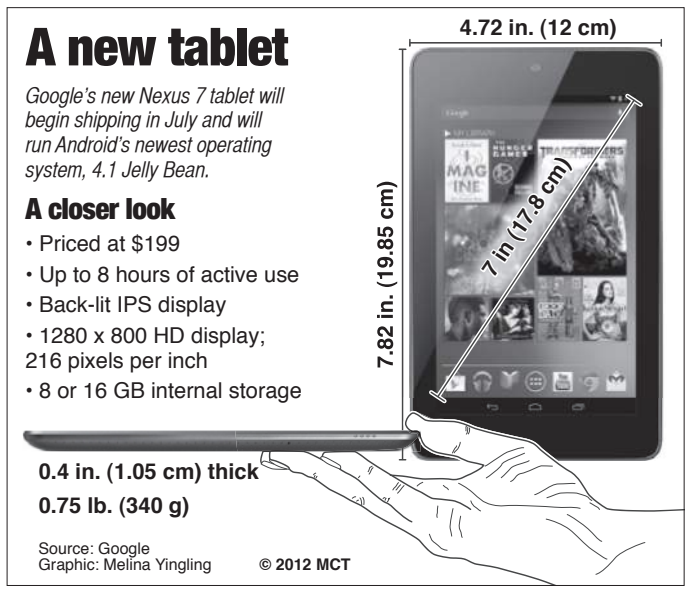
The debut of a long-anticipated tablet computer bearing Google's brand and equipped with its latest operating software kicked off an annual conference for about 6,000 computer programmers.

Although the tablet drew plenty of applause, the biggest crowd-pleasing moment came near the end of a nearly two-hour performance Wednesday when Google conjured a scene worthy of a "Mission Impossible" movie.

After Google co-founder Sergey Brin trotted on stage during the middle of a presentation, he cut away to a live video feed showing a group of skydivers the company hired to jump out of a blimp hovering about 7,000 feet above downtown San Francisco.

The skydivers were wearing a pair of Internet-connected glasses. That allowed the audience inside to see what the skydivers were seeing as they parachuted on to the roof of the building where the conference was being held.

The glasses are still a work in progress, although Google gave U.S. programmers attending the conference a chance to order a $1,500 prototype that they can start experimenting with early next year.


A new tablet
Google's new Nexus 7 tablet will begin shipping in July and will run Android's newest operating system, 4.1 Jelly Bean.
A closer look
• Priced at $199
• Up to 8 hours of active use
• Back-lit IPS display
• 1280 x 800 HD display; 216 pixels per inch
• 8 or 16 GB internal storage
4.72 in. (12 cm)
7.82 in. (19.85 cm)
7 in (17.8 cm)
0.4 in. (1.05 cm) thick
0.75 lb. (340 g)
Source: Google
Graphic: Melina Yingling
© 2012 MCT

The Google-branded tablet, called the Nexus 7, will start shipping next month in a direct challenge to Amazon.com Inc.'s Kindle Fire. The tablet also could appeal to consumers looking for a less expensive, less sophisticated alternative to Apple Inc.'s iPad.

The Nexus 7 is designed specifically for Google Play, an online store that sells movies, music, books, apps and other content. That mirrors Amazon's strategy with the Kindle Fire, although Amazon's strength in online retailing has seeded its store with a more extensive selection than Google Play. Amazon declined comment.

The size and price of the Nexus 7 also matches the Kindle Fire. Both have 7-inch screens and sell for $199. The Nexus 7 is slightly lighter at about 0.75 pound, compared with the Kindle Fire's 0.9 pound.

By contrast, the iPad's screen measures nearly 10 inches diagonally and weighs 1.44 pounds. Apple sells its latest models for $499 and up, though an older version is available for $399.

Customers can start ordering the Nexus 7 through Google on Wednesday, initially in the U.S., Canada and Australia. The device won't ship until mid-July.

Google's announcement that it's putting its brand on a tablet comes a week after Microsoft Corp. did the same thing. Both moves risk alienating Google's and Microsoft's hardware partners. Those companies, in turn, could be less inclined to work closely with Google and Microsoft.

The Nexus 7's price looks like a relative bargain, given that it boasts more features than the Kindle, including a front-facing camera with 1.2 megapixels. The Kindle is believed to be a roughly break-even product for Amazon at $199. Samsung Electronics Co. sells a tablet similar to Google's for $250.

Andrew Rassweiler, an analyst with IHS iSuppli, said he suspects Google will be selling the Nexus 7 at a loss.

Google has previously put its own brand on a flagship line of "Nexus" smartphones. But that market is more mature than the tablet market, and there was less risk of Google alienating partners, particularly because it didn't price the phones lower than the norm.

Much like the Nexus phones, the Nexus 7 tablet will be a showcase for a new version of Google's Android operating system—this one called Jelly Bean.

Although the tablet carries the Google brand, the machine will be made by AsusTek Computer Inc. Google recently expanded into the device-making business with its $12.5 billion purchase of Motorola Mobility, but the company has stressed that it intends to continue to rely on Asus and other manufacturers that have embraced Android.

Jeff Orr, an analyst with ABI Research, said Microsoft's announcement of its Surface tablet last week and Google's Nexus 7 add up to a "troubling" situation for tablet makers such as Samsung Electronics Co., which makes the Galaxy line.

When a software-supplying partner turns around and puts out its own hardware product, "is that a partner or an enemy?" Orr asked.

Orr also questioned whether Google's strategy of pricing the tablet low is really going to win it any fans in the long term. Apple, he noted, dominates the tablet market with a product that's expensive but works well.

There are already other Android-powered tablets on the market, but none have proven nearly as popular as the iPad or Kindle Fire. That has raised worries at Google as more people rely on tablets to surf the Internet.

For Google, advertising dollars are at stake. If Apple retains its dominance and other players such as Amazon and Microsoft gobble up the rest of the sales, they could set up their operating systems in ways that de-emphasize Google's Internet search engine and other services.

GOOGLE SHOW

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A new tablet, new glasses and a new version of Android—those were among the highlights at Google Inc.'s annual "I/O" conference in San Francisco for computer programmers.

Here's a rundown of the announcements:

NEW TABLET: Google will start selling a small tablet computer next month in a direct challenge to Amazon's Kindle Fire. Both are $199, but Google's Nexus 7 will weigh less and have more features.

NEW GLASSES: Futuristic, Internet-connected glasses will be available for people to test. Prototypes of the device, known as Project Glass, can be purchased for $1,500 only at the conference this week. It won't be delivered until early next year. A consumer version could come in early 2014.

NEW ENTERTAINMENT: Google unveiled a home entertainment device called Nexus Q. It sends content from your personal collection or YouTube to your existing TV and speaker systems. You control it through a separate Android phone or tablet. It will start selling next month for $299.

NEW ANDROID: Next month, Google is updating its Android operating system for mobile devices. Called Jelly Bean, the new version will have a search tool to help you get the right information at the right time on your mobile device. It's Google's response to Siri, the popular virtual assistant on Apple's iPhone.

NEW APP: The Google Plus social network will have its own app for tablet computers. The app will help you send invites to friends for events such as birthday parties. It will also make it easier for you to share and organize photos on Google Plus.

DEATH & FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

†Leocardio Camacho Mafnas

Better known as "Tun Kadu".
Born to Life on December 09, 1928
Was called to eternal life on June 24, 2012

In His New Life He Now Joins His:

WIFE: *†Sabina Ngisilong Maidesil Castro Mafnas*
SON: *†Calistro (Kelly) Castro Mafnas*
†Bruce Magofna
MOTHER: *†Remedio Celis Camacho*
FATHER: *†Joaquin Cruz Mafnas*

In His Memories Will Forever live in the Hearts of His Children/Spouse:

Carmen C. Mafnas / Joaquin Reyes Dela Cruz (Fidelia, Paul, Jerome, Mike, Marie, Kindo)
Manny C. Mafnas (Donovan, Katie, Leslie Jane)
Lourdes C. Mafnas / Felix Torres (Floyd)
Frances C. Mafnas / George B. Pangelinan (Konrad Jr., Patrick, Kevin, Brina, Jevone, Lavina)
Remy C. Mafnas / Butch Wolf (Erika, Raymond)
Jose C. / Pat Mafnas (Tyrone, Daphne, Trumaine, Pattyjhoe, Jonavaughn, Keiziah)
Rosa M. / Joseph M. Sablan (Joselyn, Eric, Keith, A.J., Sasha)
Bino Mafnas / Denita Muna (Carlyn, Loueva, Nacio, John)
Rick C. / Akiko Mafnas (Sealina, Wayland)
Florence / George M. Fleming (Amanda, George Jr., Ian)
Antonio / Isabella Reyes (Annabell, Joseph, Zackary)
Dianna / Joseph Sasamoto (Jody, Monica, Naomi)

He is Additionally Survived by Numerous Great Grand Children, Nieces, Nephews, God-Children & Friends.

Nightly mass is being offered at 6:00 p.m. at San Roque Church until July 01, 2012.

His Remains will leave CHC at 7:30 a.m. to San Roque Church on July 02, 2012, followed by the Responso and Rosary.
Mass of Christian Burial will be at 11:00 a.m. Interment will be at San Roque Cemetery.

Your thoughts, Prayers & Support Are Greatly Appreciated.

Un Dankulo Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase Giñen I Famaguon Yan Todos I Familia

Number of active users at Facebook over the years

On Wednesday, Google disclosed that its year-old Google Plus social network now has 250 million registered users. That's up from 170 million a few months ago.

That's far smaller than Facebook's more than 900 million—and that counts only those who use the service in a given month. But near the one-year mark, Facebook had only a million.

Facebook did not reveal the number at the one-year mark, in February 2005. The year-end number for 2004 is the closest available to that milestone.

Here is a look at how the number of active users at Facebook has grown:

1 million—End of 2004.
5.5 million—End of 2005.
12 million—End of 2006.
20 million—April 2007.
50 million—October 2007.
100 million—August 2008.
150 million—January 2009.
175 million—February 2009.
200 million—April 2009.
250 million—July 2009.
300 million—September 2009.
350 million—End of 2009.
400 million—February 2010.
500 million—July 2010.
608 million—End of 2010.
750 million—July 2011.
800 million—September 2011.
845 million—End of 2011.
901 million—March 2012.

Source: Facebook Inc.

Off The Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Famed Galapagos tortoise to be embalmed, displayed

QUITO, Ecuador (AP)—The beloved Galapagos Islands giant tortoise known as Lonesome George will remain a tourist attraction even in death. Ecuador's environment minister says the reptile that became a symbol of disappearing species will be embalmed and placed on display on Santa Cruz island. Minister Marcela Aguinaga told reporters Tuesday that an autopsy determined that Lonesome George died of old age. He was believed to be about 100 years old. Lonesome George was the last of the Pinta Island giant tortoise subspecies, and he failed to leave offspring despite the best efforts of conservationists. He was discovered in 1972 discovery on Pinta Island and became an ambassador of sorts for the archipelago off Ecuador's coast whose unique flora and fauna helped inspire Charles Darwin's ideas on evolution.

Police: 5 suspected of stealing 9.5 tons of garlic

VIENNA (AP)—Austrian police did not need sniffing dogs to locate this suspected heist—9.5 tons of garlic. The Austria Press Agency says police stopped three overloaded and sagging vans about to cross into Hungary from Austria on Wednesday and found them packed to the roof with the pungent cargo. After questioning the five men in the vehicles they charged them on suspicion of receiving stolen goods. Police say the garlic apparently came from Spain and estimate its value at (EURO)30,000 ($37,500). The men—all Romanian nationals—were not named, in line with Austrian privacy laws. APA cites one officer as saying it was clear what the vans were carrying even before their doors were opened. "All three vehicles really stunk like garlic," he says.

Texas woman gets $1.4M utility bill in error

ABILENE, Texas (AP)—A lot of people gripe when they get high summertime electric bills. But Kristin Harriger's bill was nearly $1.4 million. The Abilene, Texas, woman immediately called her provider, Potentia Energy. She quickly learned that her bill was an error. The utility provider also excused a $66,000 late fee listed on the bill. Potentia told the Abilene Reporter-News it had flagged the bill and had marked it to be held, but the bill mistakenly got sent out. The bill said Harriger was being charged 100,000 cents, or $1,000, per kilowatt hour. The normal rate ranges from 8.2 cents to 12.1 cents. Carmen Balver, director of the nonprofit protection group Consumer Watchdog recommended contacting state officials if people run into difficulty while trying to settle a dispute about an over-the-top bill.

Man uses slingshot to fire marbles at speed camera

ELLICOTT CITY, Md. (AP)—Police in Maryland say a man has been charged with assault for using a slingshot to fire glass marbles at a speed camera van. Authorities say Bruce Lawrence May of Ellicott City was arrested Tuesday. The 50-year-old Lawrence was also charged with destruction of property and reckless endangerment. He was released on $3,000 bond. Howard County police say that at about 5 p.m. Tuesday, the van was near Manor Woods Elementary School when the operator heard something hit the side of the vehicle. The operator saw a minivan pass and saw the driver with a slingshot fire another projectile at the speed camera van. Police say that May had received two speed camera violations recently.

NY crooks nab left shoe in 1 shop, right from 2nd

NEW YORK (AP)—Thieves in New York City have started a new sneaker trend. The New York Post reports that crooks have figured out they can steal the left shoe from the display in one store and the matching right shoe from another store's display. The owner of one Bronx sneaker store says the thieves do their research. They know before they steal a left shoe which store has a right shoe of the same size and style on display. A store manager in SoHo says he loses about 50 display shoes a year to thieves. Some store owners are tying shoes to display walls so no one will walk off with them.

Opponents, supporters rally on Mass. swearing code

MIDDLEBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)—Several dozen people have held a profanity laced rally to protest a Massachusetts town's bylaw allowing police to hand out $20 tickets for public swearing. Some people shouted curse words while others carried profane posters supporting free speech at Monday's rally in the rain on the Middleborough Town Hall lawn. People who support the bylaw also showed up. The protest rally was organized by Adam Kokesh, a libertarian who publishes podcasts online from a Virginia studio. He says police can "steal from you if they don't like what's coming out of your mouth." But police won't be issuing any tickets until the state attorney general determines if the bylaw making public cursing a civil offense is constitutional. The bylaw was passed overwhelmingly two weeks ago at a town meeting. Public swearing was a crime under a seldom-enforced 1968 bylaw.

Man robs bank, drives to police station, confesses

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—A suburban Portland man says he was so moved by a documentary exploring the cause of the Great Recession that he decided to rob a bank. But apparently the film didn't make enough of an impression for the 50-year-old Gresham man to keep the loot. The Oregonian reports that Raymond Carl Knudson pleaded guilty Monday to sticking up a Bank of America branch in April, a crime he confessed within minutes of committing. According to court documents, Knudson entered the bank and handed over a robbery note. Then he drove to the Gresham Police Department carrying all $425 of the loot and confessed. He told investigators he felt compelled to rob the bank after watching "Inside Job."

Bridal party joins newlyweds in taking the plunge

SHELBYVILLE, Mich. (AP)—A Michigan wedding party joined the bride and groom in taking the plunge over the weekend when the boat dock they were lined up on for pictures gave way. No one was hurt Saturday when newlyweds Eric and Maegan Walber fell into the water along with their bridal party at Bay Pointe Inn on Gun Lake in Shelbyville. The town is about 25 miles south of Grand Rapids. Video shows the group casually standing and talking when the dock collapses into the water. Eric Walber tells WOOD-TV that they were on the dock for about 30 seconds when it started to lean and tilt. Maegan Walber says the fall was scary for a moment because her gown made it difficult to get her footing. But, she says she "came up laughing."

Ohio zoo's new octopus chooses her name: Cora

AKRON, Ohio (AP)—A giant Pacific octopus that's the star attraction at an Ohio zoo's new reef exhibit has chosen her name by pulling shrimp from a labeled ball. A list of 2,200 suggestions submitted to the Akron Zoo in a public naming contest was narrowed to three options Monday for the 20-pound, 4-foot-long octopus, and she chose Cora. It's a shortened version of coral, which is a popular octopus habitat and the theme of the exhibit. The Akron Beacon Journal reports the octopus made her decision by selecting the ball labeled Cora, pulling out shrimp, and then holding up the winning name with a tentacle as photographers captured the moment. The most-submitted name suggestion had been Octavia. The other option, Scarlet, referred to the creature's reddish skin.

In Celebration Of His New Life

VICENTE VILLAGOMEZ TORRES

He was born to his Pilgrim Life on September 17, 1941 and
was called by his Creator to his Eternal Life on June 13, 2012 in Boise, Idaho.

His Peaceful Spirit and Memories will continue to live in the Hearts of his:

WIFE: **PRIMITIVA DELEON GUERRERO TORRES**

CHILDREN AND GRAND CHILDREN:

VINCENT DELEON GUERRERO TORRES JR. & ROWINA
(Jesseleo, Ali, Tivana Judy, Vincent III, Jupri & Hunter)
TROY DELEON GUERRERO TORRES
(Colleen Joyce)
JOAQUIN DELEON GUERRERO TORRES & IRENE
(Steven, Tiana, Jacqlene & Joaquin, Jr.)
VICTORINO DELEON GUERRERO TORRES & BRENDA
(Victoria, Maxine, Venetian & Victorino, Jr.)
RALPH DELEON GUERRERO TORRES & DIANN
(Ralph, Jr., Vaniqa Marie, Deon Titus & Tristan Dane)
JUDY MARIE DELEON GUERRERO TORRES & LUCIO
(Lucio)

BROTHER: Ralph Villagomez Torres

He is additionally survived by numerous Cousins, Nieces, Nephews and GodChildren

In his New Life, he now joins his Creator and all the Angels and Saints together with his:

Parents: †Joaquin Torres and Juana Villagomez Torres
Parents In Law: †Victorino Deleon Guerrero and Maria C. Deleon Guerrero
Brother: †Jose Villagomez Torres
Daughter: †Juanet Deleon Guerrero Torres
Sister In Law: †Carmen M. Torres

Daily Mass is offered at 6:00 p.m. at the St. Jude Church followed immediately by the Holy Rosary.

On Friday, June 29, 2012, our Beloved Father's remains will be escorted from the Borja's Funeral Home to Mount Carmel Cathedral Church at 7:30 a.m. followed by responso, rosary and public viewing. Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. followed by the interment services at Mount Carmel Cemetery. Appreciation lunch will be served after the interment services.

Thank you, Si Yu'us Ma'ase', Olomwaay and Salamat Po for
your Prayers, Thoughts and Support during our time of Bereavement.
May God Bless us all.

Primitiva Deleon Guerrero Torres & Family

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$6.00	Military with Valid I.D.

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Friday, June 29th through Monday, July 2nd, 2012

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NOW SHOWING

Magic Mike

Friday and Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:20	9:45
Sunday thru Monday	1:20	4:20	7:20	

Channing Tatum, Alex Pettyfer
Comedy, Drama • Rated R

Synopsis

Steven Soderbergh directs Channing Tatum in this drama following an upstart male stripper who is mentored by a veteran dancer. Soderbergh directs from a script by Reid Carolin, whose script is inspired by Tatum's work as a sripper before he made it in Hollywood.

Ted

Friday and Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25	10:05
Sunday thru Monday	1:25	4:25	7:25	

Mark Wahlberg, Mila Kunis
Comedy • Rated R

THE AMAZING Spider-Man

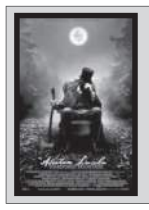
Andrew Garfield, Emma Stone

Opening on Tuesday, July 3rd

Brave

Friday and Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10	9:55
Sunday thru Thursday	1:10	4:10	7:10	

Kelly MacDonald, Emma Thompson
Children's/family • Rated PG



Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter

Friday and Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	9:50
Sunday thru Monday	1:00	4:00	7:00	

Benjamin Walker, Mary Elizabeth Winstead
Fantasy, Action • Rated R

Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted

Friday and Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15	9:30
Sunday thru Monday	1:15	4:15	7:15	

Ben Stiller, Chris Rock, David Schwimmer
Children's/family • Rated PG

Prometheus

Friday and Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30	10:00
Sunday thru Monday	1:30	4:30	7:30	

Noomi Rapace, Michael Fassbender
Science Fiction • Rated R

Snow White and The Huntsman

Friday and Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05	9:35
Sunday thru Monday	1:05	4:05	7:05	

Kristen Stewart, Chris Hemsworth
Fantasy • Rated PG 13

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Life & Style

Ready for his adieu: A beloved dancer reflects

NEW YORK (AP)—In the ballet world, they call him the charming one. In fact, the word "charming" is used so often to describe Angel Corella, American Ballet Theatre's dashing Spanish star, that it seems to have become part of his name.

But anyone seeking to disprove the thesis that Corella, now 36, is eternally charming will be sorely disappointed by sitting down with him. His famously sunny smile is in ready supply. He speaks with abundant generosity of the many ballerinas he's partnered. And he seems to be in awe of the 17-year ABT career that he's been privileged to have—and is about to end.

On Thursday, in what will surely be the emotional high point of the New York ballet season, Corella will dance one final time with ABT—in "Swan Lake"—before returning to Spain to focus full-time on the company he founded and directs, Barcelona Ballet.

AP

This 2005 photo released by the American Ballet Theatre shows Paloma Herrera and Angel Corella in "Swan Lake" in New York.

He will continue to dance, for now, with his own company. But Thursday will also be the last time, he says, that he dances a full-length ballet.

What? No more Romeos, no more Siegfrieds in "Swan Lake," Albrechts in "Giselle," or Basilios in "Don Quixote"?

"I think it's good to close a chapter, and not leave it vague," Corella says, relaxing in between rehearsals in a lounge at the Metropolitan Opera House. "I think it's better to say this is it."

Looking at Corella in his jeans and hoodie, it's hard to imagine he's 36. Dancers always seem to look younger than their age, and Corella has an especially boyish demeanor. But the body doesn't lie, and 36 is only four years from 40, by which point many have moved on, either by choice or necessity.

For Corella, there was also the realization that he simply needed to choose between two lives. For several years he'd been splitting his time between Spain, where he was building a classical ballet company in a country that had none, and New York, where ABT runs a demanding eight-week spring season.

Though he'd been given fewer ABT roles in the last few years, a fact that frustrated his fans, he'd been scheduled for a fuller season this spring. But a few months ago, on a trip to Tbilisi, Georgia, to celebrate the anniversary of the renowned ballerina Nina Ananiashvili, he had a few days to think.

"I realized how stressed I was," he says. "It really is impossible to do it all. I said, `Well, it's time.'"

Corella says he initially thought he'd simply dance the upcoming "Swan Lake," and call it a day—retiring without announcement or fanfare. But ABT artistic director Kevin McKenzie wouldn't accept that. "We have to have a celebration," Corella says McKenzie told him.

The fact that Corella thought he could slip away in the night indicates he might not be completely aware of the huge affection ABT audiences have for him. But he rushes to assure otherwise. "That's what I will miss the most," Corella says. "Every time I go onstage, I feel like I get a huge hug from the crowd."

Corella grew up outside Madrid, the only boy in the family, and endured the taunts of classmates in his youth—even rocks were thrown at him—because of his love for dance. (Spain is a country that reveres soccer players, he says, often at the expense of everything else.)

It was one of his three sisters, Carmen, whom he credits with dragging him out of bed at dawn to ballet classes (she is now a principal dancer at Barcelona Ballet.) The young Angel soon began winning awards, and his gold medal at a major Paris contest in 1994 led to an offer to join ABT at the age of 19 as a soloist. He arrived speaking almost no English.

"I just smiled when people said things to me in English," Corella laughs. "So everybody said I had this eternal smile. Actually, I am really very intense."

The rapport between Corella and the New York audience was immediate. Only 10 months later, he was promoted to principal, an instant star due to his extraordinary leaps and especially his stunning turns.

"I've always been very lucky with the turning," Corella says bashfully of the multiple pirouettes he can whip off—at one point in his life, as many as 30 revolutions in one turn. "We used to have contests with the other dancers, but they never let me participate," he chuckles.

But as important as the technique was the spirit behind it: a buoyant, joyful, seemingly boundless energy.

"I always felt that when he danced, it was a celebration," says Wendy Perron, editor in chief of *Dance Magazine*. "Like when you're a kid at a parade, and you watch it and you get excited—that's how he made us feel. He had this bounding quality, always in the air, always smiling."

Ironically, Corella, especially early on, was occasionally a victim of his talent—some critics saw his leaps and turns as "just tricks," says Perron. "But it really seemed natural to him," she says. "And it just made you feel good to watch it."

Veteran ABT ballerina Julie Kent, who had a long partnership with Corella, says the 19-year-old boy wonder soon turned into a more mature man. "I think at first people saw him as this joyous, boyish, extraordinarily talented jumper and turner, and that was true," she says. "But as he became a man he developed other, more mature, romantic qualities." Asked to define Corella as a dancer, Kent says: "Intensity, passion, generosity."

Generosity is crucial in a partnership, and Corella says he's most proud of the relationships he formed with his ballerinas. And there were so many, besides Kent: Paloma Herrera, who will be his Odette/Odile on Thursday. Ananiashvili. Alessandra Ferri. Alina Cojocaru, with whom he performed an exquisite "Giselle" last month.

"I would have loved to dance more with Alina," he says of the delicate Romanian phenom. "But whenever I dance with a girl, people say, `You guys are great together.' I think that's because I try to make it always about HER."

Kent agrees: She says he would come to her before a show, with that smile, saying "Come on!" and psyching them both up. "He wanted for me what I wanted for myself," she says.

Blessed with an abundance of physical talent, it almost seems unfair that Corella also has—and this is a fact only the most avid fans are aware of—a photographic memory.

Imagine what that means for a dancer, and an occasional choreographer—no need to write down steps, ever. Knowing everyone's role in every ballet, from the principals to the corps, in one viewing. "Sometimes in my company they think I am sort of a freak," he quips.

He can also always find his car in a huge parking lot. But the gift is a curse, too—it means Corella has so much running through his head, he often can't sleep at night. "I need to watch 'Scooby-Doo' episodes to calm down," he says.

In any case, his photographic memory will come in handy Thursday, enabling him to preserve in his mind every curtain call, every cheer, every "Bravo!" from an audience ready to shower him with love. Not to mention every hug from colleagues past and present, who will surely crowd the stage at the end, in grand ABT tradition.

Cue the confetti, the flowers, and especially the Kleenex: "There will be tears," predicts Kent.

Fans 'Believe' in Bieber, give him 4th No. 1 album

NEW YORK (AP)—Justin Bieber's "Believe" is the year's top-selling debut album.

Nielsen SoundScan reports sales of 374,000 copies following its release last week, giving the 18-year-old Canadian pop singer the fourth No. 1 album and the best sales week of his young career. "Believe" also debuted at No. 1 in 29 other countries.

The album topped Madonna's "MDNA" as the year's top debut thus far and is the best-selling first-week release since Drake's "Take Care" came out in December. Kenny Chesney's "Welcome to the Fishbowl" followed Bieber last week with 193,000 albums sold.

Bieber has sold more than 15 million albums since he put out his first record in 2009.

Fans have been impatiently awaiting the release of "Believe," viewing the video for the title single 86 million times on YouTube and putting four songs in the Top 40 of Billboard's Hot 100 chart simultaneously.

AP

This June 17, 2012 file photo shows singer Justin Bieber performing during the 2012 Much Music Video Awards in Toronto.

Host lightens up 'Late Late Show' as lights go out

NEW YORK (AP)—Craig Ferguson kept it light when the lights went out.

CBS says Wednesday's edition of "The Late Late Show" was faced with lighting problems after a transformer blew, shorting out the light grid above the stage for the taping just hours before airtime.

Ferguson, referring to his mechanical sidekick, quipped that the show would rely on "the light of a robot's eye."

Not quite. Two temporary lights were positioned to illuminate Ferguson and his guests, former "Friends" star Lisa Kudrow and producer Harvey Weinstein, who also joked around with flashlights.

Ferguson, whose show is taped at CBS' Television City in Hollywood, has weathered technical glitches before. In October 2009, he had a power failure and taped part of the show entirely by flashlight. He's also been plagued periodically by a leaky roof.

And he isn't the only late-night host who's lost juice. Two years ago, Jimmy Kimmel was forced to tape his ABC show with his laptop's webcam after a power outage in the studio control room.

But the future burns bright for "The Late Late Show": It's scheduled to move to a better-equipped studio by summer's end.

Of course, sometimes people ask Ferguson why he's making a move, he noted during his monologue.

"And I say, 'Oh, no reason,'" he cracked as he gestured toward his darkened stage.

Son says Nora Ephron service planned for July 9

NEW YORK (AP)—A service for Nora Ephron has been scheduled for next month.

Her son, Jacob Bernstein, said on Wednesday details about the July 9 service are still being determined.

Ephron died on Tuesday in New York City at age 71. The author and Oscar-nominated filmmaker had been battling leukemia.

Ephron was one of Hollywood's most prominent figures and was known for movies including "Heartburn," "You've Got Mail," "Sleepless in Seattle" and her last, "Julie & Julia." As a screenwriter, she was nominated three times for Academy Awards.

She also was an acclaimed author.

Michael Jackson's tiger dies of lung cancer

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Thriller, a tiger that belonged to Michael Jackson when the entertainer lived at his Neverland ranch, has died of lung cancer at actress-activist Tippi Hedren's wildlife preserve in California.

The 13-year-old, 375-pound tiger died June 11, Hedren said Wednesday. A necropsy was performed and the tiger was cremated. Staff workers will hold a private service when the ashes are buried in a section of the preserve set aside for animals that die there.

Thriller and her brother Sabu were born on Nov. 20, 1998, and lived with Jackson until May 4, 2006, Hedren said.

When Jackson left Neverland for good, his veterinarian asked Hedren to take the cats at her Shambala Preserve in Acton, about 50 miles north of Los Angeles.

AP

This image provided by Bill Dow shows a tiger formerly owned by Michael Jackson, named Thriller, shown in California.

Other Neverland animals, including giraffes, flamingos, orangutans, elephants and dozens of reptiles, were sent to other sanctuaries in other parts of the country.

Shambala didn't have a lot of room, but Hedren built a $79,000 habitat next to the preserve's lake and there were trees and a hill and Thriller had a great life with Sabu, she said.

"Thriller was a real piece of work, one gutsy girl. She ruled Sabu's life. It was humorous to watch the whole relationship. She did things to him that male tigers would normally never allow. She would steal food from him. That's unheard of. She ruled the roost, was very independent and tough," Hedren said.

Unlike many of the animals at the preserve, Thriller and Sabu arrived at the compound in excellent health physically and emotionally, Hedren said.

There are 15 tigers at the compound, but Sabu is now alone in the habitat he shared with Thriller and he'll probably stay that way, Hedren said.

Tigers are loners in the wild, she explained.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Rihanna escapes early morning fire at London hotel

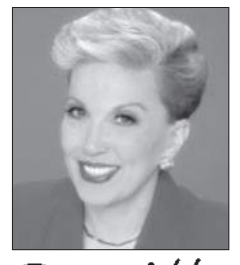
LONDON (AP)—London Fire Brigade says Rihanna was among 300 people evacuated from a hotel after an early-morning fire in an elevator shaft. The 24-year-old Barbadian singer tweeted news of the fire early Wednesday to her 21 million Twitter followers, posting a picture of a fire engine and the words: "Roamin da streets since 6am! Fyah in da telly." The fire brigade said the alarm was raised at 6:22 a.m. (0522 GMT) and 10 firefighters dealt with the blaze on the 7th floor of the luxury Corinthia Hotel. There were no reports of injuries. Rihanna performed Sunday at the outdoor Hackney Weekend concert in London.

Prosecutors: Celeb hacker should get prison

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Federal prosecutors are recommending a nearly six-year prison sentence for a Florida man who has pleaded guilty to hacking into email accounts belonging to Christina Aguilera, Mila Kunis and Scarlett Johansson. Court documents filed earlier this week in California said 35-year-old Christopher Chaney also should pay more than $150,000 in restitution, including about $66,000 to Johansson. Chaney is scheduled to be sentenced July 23. Chaney pleaded guilty to nine counts in March and was arrested last year as part of a yearlong investigation dubbed "Operation Hackerazzi." Prosecutors said Chaney illegally accessed the email accounts of more than 50 people in the entertainment industry. Nude photos Johansson had taken of herself were later posted on the Internet. "The Avengers" star said the photos were meant for Ryan Reynolds, now her ex-husband.

Parents orchestrating son's love life win scant praise

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DEAR ABBY: My sister has decided to let her 14-year-old son have a girlfriend. This is contrary to every value we grew up with as kids into adulthood.

She has met the girl's parents and says they "immediately clicked" and she knew right away that they share the same morals. The parents now set up situations where the two kids can get together. Not only have my nephew and the girl bonded, but the parents have become fast friends.

I see no problem with a little puppy love that happens in school, but is it asking for trouble when parents start to create dating situations when kids are so young? What happens if they are eventually allowed to be alone? Or one of them wants to break up but is afraid to hurt not only the other, but also the parents?

My sister says she's "guiding her son through his first romance." I say an eighth-grader is too young and she's inviting a myriad of problems. We have fought over this because she says I'm not being "flexible" and because this hasn't happened to my child yet. I offered my opinion only after I was asked what I thought of my nephew's girlfriend after she posted pictures on the Internet. Am I right to think this is crazy, Abby?

SANE AUNT IN GEORGIA

DEAR SANE AUNT: Let's just say it is ill-advised rather than crazy. But I agree that your sister is headed for trouble because she isn't allowing her son's "first romance" to develop naturally.

First love often peaks and burns out quickly. When there are two sets of intermeshed parents involved, it can lead to lasting hurt feelings and sometimes enmity.

However, if you think your sister is going to listen to either of us, you're dreaming. So quit offering unsolicited advice and stay tuned for what's coming because there are lessons to be learned for everyone involved.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am getting married this year and I'd like to challenge the notion that it's rude to ask for gifts toward a honeymoon or other big-ticket items such as home improvements or a car. My fiance and I own our home and we don't need a lot of the traditional items couples receive at their wedding.

Our families have been very understanding, but I'm sick to death of hearing or reading that it's rude to ask for money. Shouldn't wedding guests be happy to celebrate the couple in a way that they need and not force them to register for a bunch of material things they won't use?

ALREADY HAS A BLENDER

DEAR ALREADY HAS A ...: Your question is very common. I receive variations on this theme in every batch of mail that arrives.

It is considered rude to ask for money on a wedding INVITATION, just as it is considered rude for brides and grooms to raise the subject themselves. When a wedding invitation is accepted, the guests usually contact whoever issued the invitation to inquire where the couple is registered. Once asked, it is then appropriate to reply, "They're not registered for gifts because they already have everything they need, but monetary gifts would be appreciated."

Some couples set up financial registries for this purpose with their bank or other financial institution, and there are also honeymoon registries and charitable gift registries if guests would prefer to donate to a worthy cause chosen by the happy couple.

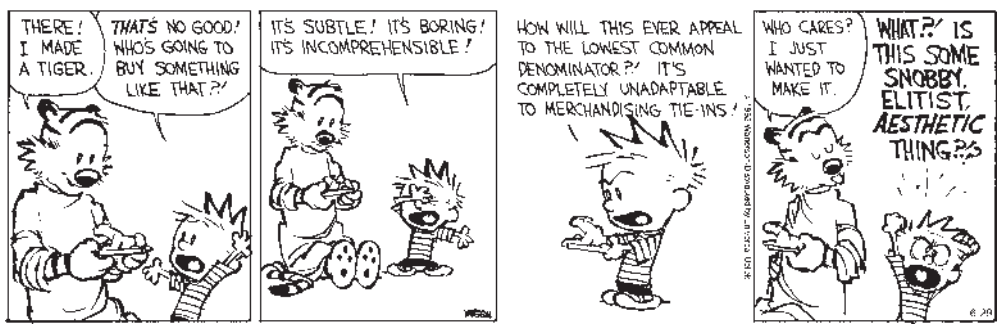
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

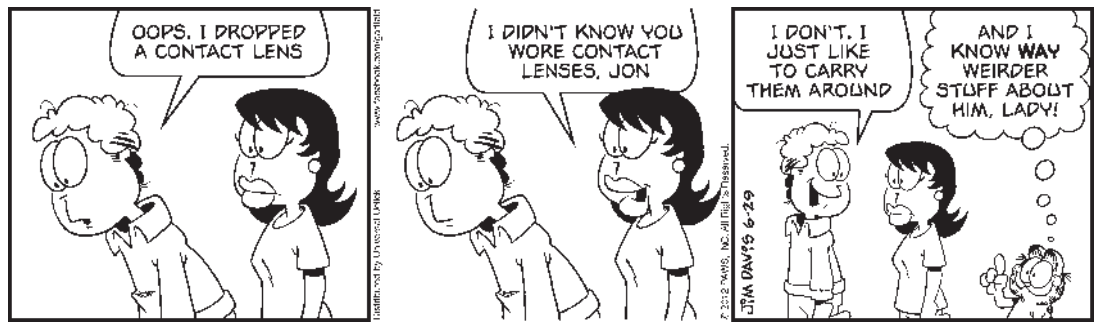
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


THERE! I MADE A TIGER.
THAT'S NO GOOD! WHO'S GOING TO BUY SOMETHING LIKE THAT?!
IT'S SUBTLE! IT'S BORING! IT'S INCOMPREHENSIBLE!
HOW WILL THIS EVER APPEAL TO THE LOWEST COMMON DENOMINATOR?! IT'S COMPLETELY UNADAPTABLE TO MERCHANDISING TIE-INS!
WHO CARES? I JUST WANTED TO MAKE IT.
WHAT?! IS THIS SOME SNOBBY, ELITIST, AESTHETIC THING?!

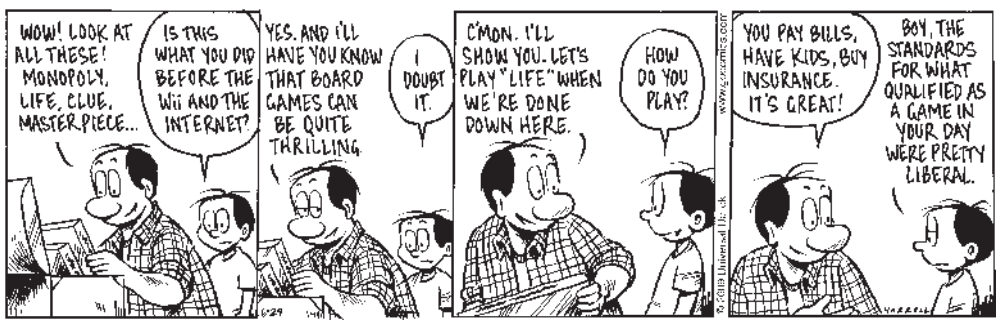
Garfield®

By Jim Davis


OOPS. I DROPPED A CONTACT LENS
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WORE CONTACT LENSES, JON
I DON'T. I JUST LIKE TO CARRY THEM AROUND
AND I KNOW WAY WEIRDER STUFF ABOUT HIM, LADY!
JIM DAVIS 6-29

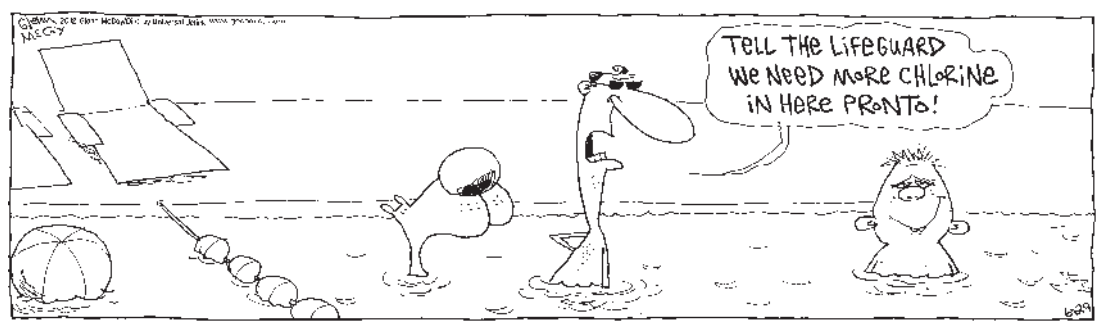
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WOW! LOOK AT ALL THESE! MONOPOLY, LIFE, CLUE, MASTER PIECE...
IS THIS WHAT YOU DID BEFORE THE Wii AND THE INTERNET?
YES. AND I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW THAT BOARD GAMES CAN BE QUITE THRILLING.
I DOUBT IT.
C'MON. I'LL SHOW YOU. LET'S PLAY "LIFE" WHEN WE'RE DONE DOWN HERE.
HOW DO YOU PLAY?
YOU PAY BILLS, HAVE KIDS, BUY INSURANCE. IT'S GREAT!
BOY, THE STANDARDS FOR WHAT QUALIFIED AS A GAME IN YOUR DAY WERE PRETTY LIBERAL.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 — Alamos
4 Colorado Springs org.
8 Incite
12 Sternward
13 Lump
14 Beatle or apostle
15 Render immobile
17 Do in
18 Met melody
19 Carillon components
20 "Rocky Horror" heroine
22 Duel tool
24 Early birds?
25 Protective walls
29 Earlier than
30 Goof
31 Pinch
32 Sunshades
34 State with certainty
35 "— and the Tramp"
36 Suspicious
37 Big-time glitch
40 Groovy
41 Serve tea
42 Overly fearful
46 Shrek, for one
47 Highlander
48 Thickness
49 Loathsome sort
50 Pruritus
51 — out a living

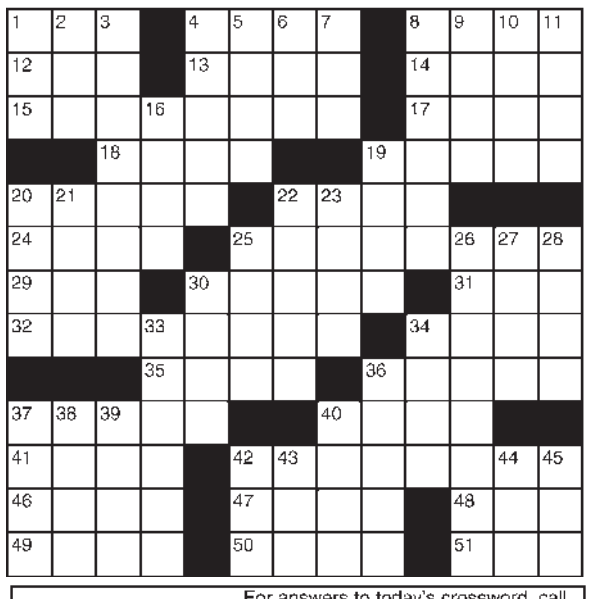
DOWN

1 You can't stand having one
2 Son-gun link
3 Alien
4 Dark
5 High-protein bean
6 Wood-shaping tool
7 Doctor's due
8 Maintenance
9 Bar
10 Sea flier
11 Right angles
16 War god
19 Tolerate
20 Military vehicle
21 Taj Mahal city
22 Not merely prompt
23 Arguments in favor
25 Incite
26 Academy Awards prop
27 Layer
28 Agile
30 Birthright barterer
33 Bruce Wayne's butler
34 A long time
36 Disinclined
37 Name for a Dalmatian
38 "Forget it"
39 Emanation
40 Gator's cousin
42 Omega preceder
43 Don't just sit there
44 Sort
45 Easter purchase

Solution time: 25 mins.

A	S	P	S	■	B	E	G	■	A	C	M	E
L	A	I	C	■	E	R	A	■	T	H	I	N
A	G	A	R	■	F	E	Z	■	E	E	L	S
S	A	F	A	R	I	■	E	P	I	C	■	■
■	■	W	E	T	B	L	A	N	K	E	T	■
T	W	A	N	G	■	A	L	L	■	O	A	R
W	I	N	Y	■	D	Y	E	■	C	U	R	E
O	T	T	■	B	O	O	■	T	I	T	L	E
S	H	E	E	T	M	U	S	I	C	■	■	■
■	■	A	Q	U	A	■	A	P	A	C	H	E
T	U	T	U	■	I	L	L	■	D	U	E	S
A	S	E	A	■	N	E	O	■	A	S	A	P
C	A	R	L	■	S	I	N	■	S	P	R	Y

Yesterday's answer 6-29



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99c per minute. touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Nicole Scherzinger, 34; Jeff Burton, 45; Sharon Lawrence, 51; Gary Busey, 68.

Happy Birthday: Take an unusual approach to the way you live. Change will inspire you to take on goals that will lead to bigger and better opportunities. Start the process of planning and organizing your future to better suit your personal and professional needs. Shake things up, pick up the pace and demand greater independence. Your numbers are 4, 16, 21, 28, 33, 44, 47.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Keep a tight reign on anyone working for you. Clarify what you want and what you are willing to offer. People from your past will play an important role in your life now. Romance is in the stars. Make special plans. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Let intuition guide you when it comes to matters of give-and-take, partnerships, volunteering and donating. Not everyone will understand the reasoning behind your action or inaction. Travel and research will bring you greater clarity. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Size up, sort out and get on with it. You have plenty to gain, as long as you don't get caught up in someone else's melodrama. Avoid unpredictable people who will cause confusion and get in your way. Love is in the stars. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Determination, desire and creative input will help you best any competition you face. Delve into the unfamiliar and try your hand at something a little obscure, and you will find you have a special skill. Don't fight change. ✪✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): It will be hard to withhold your feelings. Concentrate on learning, self-improvement and change. Networking will help you find new ways to utilize what you have to offer and to recognize the people you should be embracing. Make what you do count. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): An outside influence will shake up your life. You may have to give before you get anything in return. Don't let someone from your past take advantage of you. Deception is apparent, and protecting your heart and your assets is a must. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Take greater interest in what you enjoy doing most. Do what you can to turn your passion into a moneymaking venture. Good fortune can be yours, if you are ready to follow your heart and your passion. Love and romance will enhance your life. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Deal with personal responsibilities and the alterations you want to make to your home, family and domestic life. Be careful not to overspend on something because of someone's failure to give you an honest assessment of what needs to be done. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Voice your opinion, but don't get upset if someone doesn't see things your way. Getting angry or fighting a losing battle won't help you accomplish your goals. Love is worth nurturing. Put aside time for someone special. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Relax, and plan to have some fun. Don't take anyone or anything too seriously. Getting involved in an activity, pastime or mini-trip that interests you will also generate new ideas and plans to further your goals. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Stick close to home and make alterations that will make you feel less stressed. Friends, family and your lover should all be included in your plans. A contract, gift or settlement will help stabilize your financial position. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Bide your time. Don't race into anything, even if someone is pressuring you. Spend time mulling over your choices in a relaxed atmosphere. Make your home your safety zone. Let your imagination lead you to new possibilities and ways to advance. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are versatile, fun-loving and open-minded. You are unique, original and passionate.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		1				7		
8	4						2	9
				7				
1			5		2			3
		6		9		8		
4			6		8			1
				2				
3	6						1	4
		4				6		

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 6/29

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

5	7	2	8	1	6	4	9	3
1	4	8	9	2	3	6	7	5
9	6	3	7	5	4	8	1	2
3	2	1	4	6	7	9	5	8
7	9	4	2	8	5	3	6	1
6	8	5	3	9	1	2	4	7
4	3	6	1	7	2	5	8	9
2	1	9	5	4	8	7	3	6
8	5	7	6	3	9	1	2	4

Difficulty Level ★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

DO YOU REMEMBER THE HULA HOOP? **Solution: 5 letters**

T	S	S	E	N	T	I	F	B	A	L	A	N	C	E
S	Y	P	H	S	E	S	G	N	I	W	O	R	H	T
I	M	L	A	O	L	Z	K	W	F	A	B	R	I	C
W	O	L	S	T	U	L	I	C	K	C	A	B	L	Y
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1) Claimant's full legal name and contact information (address, email, telephone, fax, etc.):
2) Summary description and amount of the claim; and
3) Date the claim arose.

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Spain tops Portugal in shootout to make Euro final

DONETSK, Ukraine (AP)—Still not pretty to watch, still just as effective.

Spain again failed to dazzle at the European Championship yet still advanced to its third straight major championship final, beating Portugal 4-2 in a penalty shootout Wednesday following a scoreless draw after extra time.

"We're playing better in defense than what the characteristics of our players would suggest," Spain coach Vicente del Bosque said. "That's what earns victories."

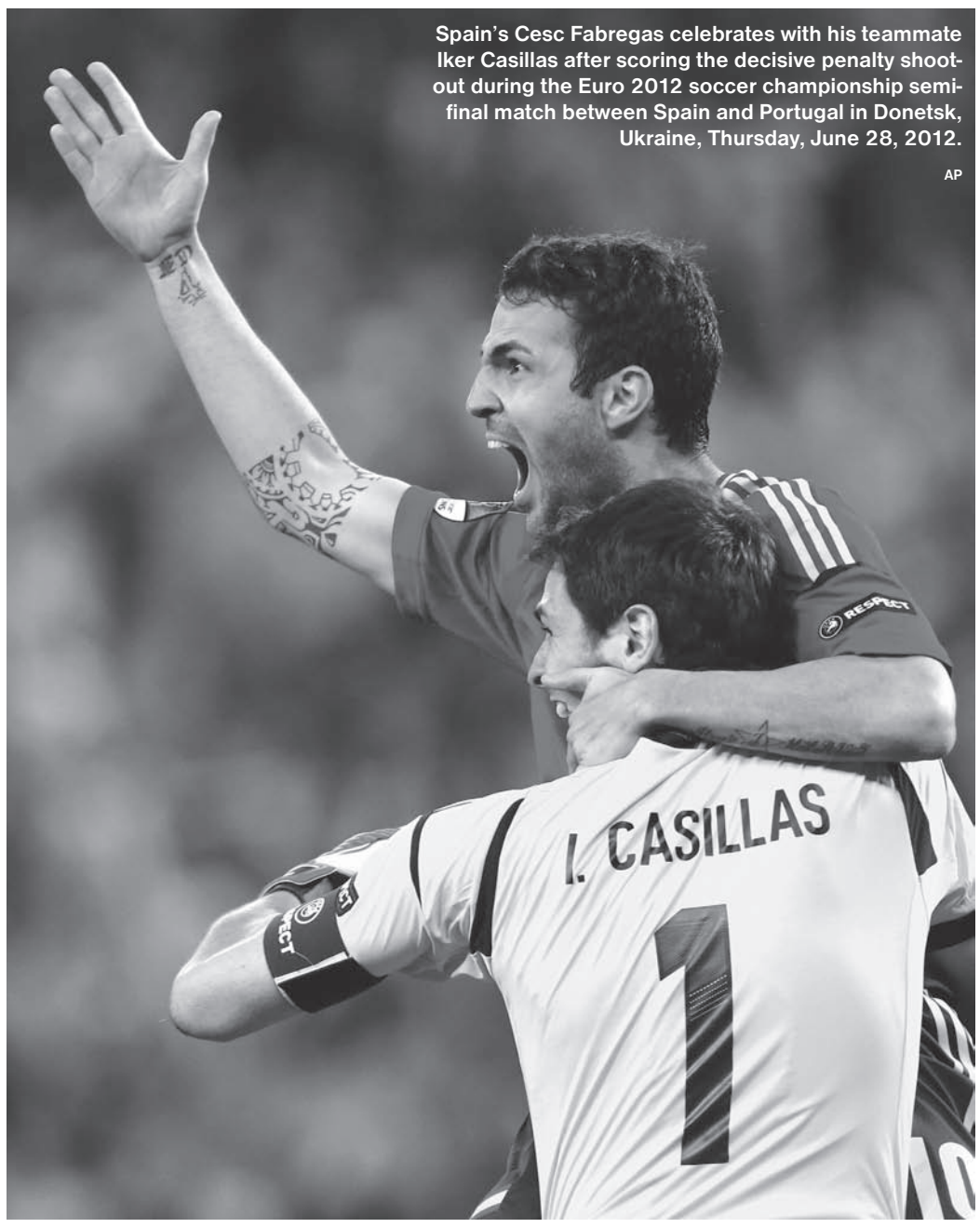
After earning plaudits for the eye-catching one-touch passing that helped Spain win titles at Euro 2008 and the 2010 World Cup, this year's team is struggling to create chances. Against Portugal, the defending champions managed only one quality shot in regulation time.

It didn't matter, though, because the Spanish still came through when it mattered. Cesc Fabregas, who came on as a substitute in the second half, scored the deciding penalty after Bruno Alves hit the crossbar for Portugal moments earlier.

"I played poorly, but the team worked really hard," Fabregas said. "I had this intuition that we could advance if we went to penalties and that's what we did."

Spain will next face either Germany or Italy on Sunday in Kiev.

"Being in another final is a miracle," Fabregas said. "It's really incredible."



Spain's Cesc Fabregas celebrates with his teammate Iker Casillas after scoring the decisive penalty shootout during the Euro 2012 soccer championship semifinal match between Spain and Portugal in Donetsk, Ukraine, Thursday, June 28, 2012.

AP

Cristiano Ronaldo had several chances for Portugal, but he sent three shots well over the crossbar as his team held its own for the entire match. The Real Madrid star, who came alive with three goals in his last two matches at the tournament, did not take a penalty in the shootout. He had been slated to take the fifth one, but it never got that far.

"Our players trained and were prepared for a situation like this," Portugal coach Paulo Bento said. "We didn't have much luck."

After an often dour opening 90 minutes, the match livened up in the 30 minutes of extra time.

Spain midfielder Andres Iniesta forced Portugal goalkeeper Rui Patricio into a superb reflex save in the 103rd minute. Iniesta ghosted into the penalty area then held his head in disbelief as Rui Patricio reacted brilliantly to get a strong hand on his shot after Jordi Alba cut the ball back toward the penalty spot.

Rui Patricio made another fine save to deny substitute Jesus Navas in the 111th.

"Both teams were stronger in defense in the first 90 minutes, but that balance was broken in extra time," Spain coach Vicente del Bosque said.

Tempers frayed at times, with Portugal center half Pepe getting a yellow card for a challenge on Xabi Alonso as they went for a high ball. Ronaldo also received some heavy challenges late in the match.

In the shootout, Xabi had the first attempt saved by Rui Patricio before Spain goalkeeper Iker Casillas saved Joao Moutinho's shot. Iniesta, Gerard Pique and Sergio Ramos then all scored for Spain, while Pepe and Nani answered for Portugal.

"The first one wasn't so lucky, and then we scored the rest of them," Casillas said. "Yes, we really were lucky. Everything is about luck sometimes."

Del Bosque ditched his unorthodox 4-6-0 formation for Wednesday's match and opted for a traditional striker—but not the one many expected. Instead of Fernando Torres, it was Alvaro Negredo that got the start up front. But 10 minutes into the second half, Del Bosque replaced him with Fabregas.

Although Negredo worked hard, his lack of movement made him easy to mark. Spain improved as Fabregas made clever runs to stretch the defense and the defending champions dominated most of extra time with the substitution of Pedro Rodriguez for midfielder Xavi Hernandez late in the match.

"I think we were better in the first 90 minutes. Then in extra time we were less efficient," Bento said. "When we couldn't take advantage of our opportunities, Spain got stronger."

Rui Patricio was a big help in goal for Portugal, but much more was expected from Ronaldo. The winger had a chance, albeit a difficult one, to win the game in the 90th minute when Portugal poured forward after clearing a free kick. But Raul Meireles' pass was fractionally behind Ronaldo and, with momentum lost, he had to check his run and sent his shot high and wide.

Ronaldo briefly threatened early in the first half, whipping over a cross from the left wing that Casillas grabbed before Nani could head it in. He also sent a free kick into the wall after too easily tumbling under a challenge.

Working as a unit, Portugal started to gain the upper hand midway through the first half. Moutinho flicked the ball into the path of Ronaldo, whose wild shot flew over the net.

"Everyone helped to control Ronaldo," Del Bosque said.

7 seconds put Errani in 2nd round; Federer wins

WIMBLEDON, England (AP)—Count `em: 7 seconds.

That's how long French Open runner-up Sara Errani "played" at Wimbledon on Wednesday against qualifier CoCo Vandeweghe of Rancho Santa Fe, Calif.—enough time to wrap up a 6-1, 6-3 victory in the first round.

How's that possible? Because action was suspended by rain a night earlier, with the 10th-seeded Errani at match point as the 132nd-ranked Vandeweghe served.

When they resumed, after the customary several-minute warmup ritual of baseline strokes, volleys, overheads and serves, Vandeweghe tossed up a ball and hit it into the net. Moments later, she hit her second serve into the net, too, to complete the double-fault that ended the match, right then and there—leaving both women smiling and spectators guffawing. Errani joined in the laughter as she packed away her racket bag, and kept right on giggling during her news conference.

Asked by an Italian reporter to recount what happened, Errani said, justifiably: "There's not much to tell."

Asked by another whether she'd bothered to take a shower, Errani assured him she planned to later.

"I had talked to my coach to plan what I wanted to do in the match," Errani said, "but there was no need."

All in all, it was exactly the sort of unusual happening that Day 3 kept producing in what's shaping up as a wet and wild week at the All England Club. Another: Prince Charles visited his nation's most famous tennis club, something he hadn't done in 42 years.

Four of the top 13 seeded women were sent packing Wednesday, including 2011 U.S. Open champion Sam Stosur, 2011 French Open champion Li Na, and former No. 1-ranked Caroline Wozniacki.

The fifth-seeded Stosur's 6-2, 0-6, 6-4 loss to 72nd-ranked Arantxa Rus of the Netherlands means Australia will have zero men or women in the third round for the first time since 1939.

"It's a pretty woeful performance by all of us," said Stosur, the last of nine Australians in the tournament.

Wozniacki, who hadn't departed any Grand Slam tournament in the first round in more than five years, blew two match points in the second set and was beaten 5-7, 7-6 (4), 6-4 by 37th-ranked Tamira Paszek of Austria. It was the first match of the fortnight played with the Centre Court's retractable roof closed.

"I had over two years where I was winning these matches," said No. 7 Wozniacki, who is dating 2011 U.S. Open golf champion Rory McIlroy and is still seeking her first major title. "I feel lately it's going the other way a little bit. It's not the first match this year where I have match points and not winning. You know, it's frustrating."

No. 11 Li lost to 52nd-ranked Sorana Cirstea of Romania 6-3, 6-4 in a second-round match, and 13th-seeded Dominika Cibulkova was beaten by 31st-ranked Klara Zakopalova of Czech Republic 6-4, 6-1 in the first round.

Adding to the anything-can-happen vibe, at least for the better part of an hour: No. 1 Maria Sharapova trailed 38th-ranked Tsvetana Pironkova throughout the first set, fended off five set points, and was ahead 7-6 (3), 3-1 when their second-round match was suspended by darkness.

That was one of four singles matches halted in progress, while four others were postponed entirely, adding to the backlog created by showers.

Before the rain came, Prince Charles sat in the Royal Box at Centre Court, watching six-time champion Roger Federer stumble once and awkwardly tweak his left knee but otherwise easily reach the third round by beating 68th-ranked Fabio Fognini of Italy 6-1, 6-3, 6-2.

"I'm fine. No pain, which is good," Federer said. "It could be dangerous with the left knee. I'm happy it was only basically a bruise to the ground, and not anything in the knee itself."

Federer and Fognini offered slightly stilted bows on their way off the court. Afterward, Federer chatted with and the Prince of Wales and Duchess of Cornwall for a few minutes, discussing tennis, polo and Federer's young twin daughters.

"They do brief you beforehand," said Federer, owner of a record 16 major championships, but none in the last 2 1/2 years. "I guess you don't do anything stupid. You behave. Obviously we were asked to bow, which is obviously no problem to do."

He said the royals "thought I played great ... which was unnecessary, but of course, I do appreciate it."

His performance was hardly out of the ordinary, of course. Nor was the 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 victory turned in by top-seeded and defending champion Novak Djokovic against 20-year-old American Ryan Harrison under the roof in the day's last match. Or straight-set wins by Andy Roddick to reach the second round and Kim Clijsters to get to the third.

Djokovic's second-round match against Harrison actually was much tighter than the score implies. Each man hit eight aces. Djokovic had one more winner, 31-30, and one more unforced error, 15-14. What made the difference? Djokovic converted 3 of 3 break points, and Harrison went 0 for 6.

"I was in trouble in the second set," Djokovic acknowledged. "It could have easily gone the other way."

But there were other interesting happenings.

Heather Watson, a British player ranked 103rd, became the first woman from the tournament's host country to reach the third round since 2002 by eliminating Jamie Hampton of the United States 6-1, 6-4.

Sloane Stephens, an unseeded 19-year-old American making her main-draw debut at the All England Club, saved five set points in the opener and wound up eliminating No. 23 Petra Cetkovska of the Czech Republic 7-6 (6), 4-6, 6-3. In the third set, Stephens was behind love-30 in four consecutive service games, before coming back to win each of them.

"I do still have some lapses," she said. "They're less now than I used to have in the past. I really don't get as upset when I lose points now. I'm not that emotional anymore."

No. 21-seeded Milos Raonic of Canada needed only slightly longer than Errani to finish off his rain-interrupted victory, coming back after a night's sleep to take the one game he was missing for a 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 defeat of Santiago Giraldo of Colombia. Raonic is scheduled to face Sam Querrey of the United States in the second round Thursday.

Errani is supposed to back out there Thursday, too, facing Anne Keothavong of Britain.

Seems safe to say Errani will need to put in a little more time and effort on court—weather permitting, of course.

Lincecum beats Dodgers to end long drought

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Tim Lincecum won for the first time in nearly two months to end the worst drought of his career as the San Francisco Giants held the Los Angeles Dodgers scoreless for the third straight game in a 3-0 victory Wednesday.

Angel Pagan hit an RBI single and drew a bases-loaded walk to back Lincecum (3-8) as the Giants moved into a first-place tie in the NL West with the Dodgers by completing their second sweep of the season.

It was the first time in franchise history that they shut out the rival Dodgers in a three-game series, a stretch that spans 123 seasons.

Lincecum threw four-hit ball over seven innings for his first win since April 28. He struck out eight and walked two while outpitching Chad Billingsley (4-7). The two-time Cy Young pitching award winner ended a career-long 10-start winless stretch in which he went a career-worst 0-6.

Braves 6, Diamondbacks 4

In Atlanta, Chipper Jones and Jason Heyward homered as Atlanta withstood Arizona's comeback attempt.

Jones' two-run shot off Trevor Cahill (6-6) in the sixth inning was his first homer since May 4.

Tommy Hanson (9-4) gave up three runs and seven hits in 6 1-3 innings. Craig Kimbrel struck out the side in the ninth to earn his NL-leading 22nd save.

Pirates 11, Phillies 7

In Philadelphia, Chase Utley homered in his first at-bat of the season, but Pittsburgh spoiled his return by connecting three times to beat Philadelphia.

Michael McKenry hit a three-run homer and Andrew McCutchen and Casey McGehee also went deep for the Pirates in their highest-scoring game of the season.

Brewers 8, Reds 4

In Cincinnati, Rickie Weeks and Cody Ransom each hit a two-run homer off Homer Bailey as Milwaukee avoided a three-game sweep by beating Cincinnati.

Zack Greinke (9-2) remained unbeaten against the Reds, allowing two runs in six innings. Greinke is 4-0 in six career starts against Cincinnati.

Marlins 5, Cardinals 3

In Miami, John Buck and pinch-hitter Logan Morrison connected for consecutive home runs in the seventh inning, rallying Miami past St. Louis to end its eight-game losing streak against the Cardinals.

St. Louis had won five in a row overall. Miami won for just the fourth time in 21 games.

Nationals 11, Rockies 5

In Denver, Jordan Zimmermann pitched seven strong innings to steer Washington past Colorado.

Zimmermann (4-6) picked up his first win since May 22.

Namesake Ryan Zimmerman and Tyler Moore both homered for the second straight game. Moore finished with three hits for the Nationals, who has scored nine runs in consecutive games, having only reached that number once in their first 71 games.

Mets 17, Cubs 1

In Chicago, Daniel Murphy homered twice, Scott Hairston hit a grand slam and David Wright drove in five runs as New York routed Chicago.

Ike Davis had a three-run homer and an RBI double as he combined with Murphy, Hairston and Wright to drive in all 17 runs — with each having at least four RBIs — to help the Mets snap a four-game losing streak.

The Mets had their highest-scoring game since they put up 18 runs at Wrigley Field on Sept. 5, 2010. It was also the most runs the Cubs have allowed since that game.

Astros 1, Padres 0

In Houston, Lucas Harrell pitched his first complete game and left fielder J.D. Martinez threw out a runner at the plate in the ninth inning to preserve Houston's victory over San Diego.

Matt Downs homered and Harrell (7-6) finished a six-hitter by striking out Nick Hundley with the bases loaded.

Yankees' 5, Indians 4

In New York, Andy Pettitte broke his ankle on the same day the Yankees put C.C. Sabathia on the disabled list, but Robinson Cano hit a go-ahead homer to help New York beat the Cleveland Indians for a three-game sweep.

The American League East leaders face at least two starts without Sabathia and at least six weeks without Pettitte, the 40-year-old veteran who came out of retirement and had filled in admirably for a pitching staff hit hard by injuries—including the loss of starter Michael Pineda and closer Mariano Rivera.

Rangers 13, Tigers 9

In Arlington, Texas, David Murphy went 4 for 5 with two home runs and matched his career high with five RBIs for Texas in the win over Detroit.

Every Ranger had a hit or scored except Josh Hamilton, who went 0 for 4 and struck out four times.

Texas starter Roy Oswalt (2-0) made it two wins from two starts with his new team despite giving up a career-worst 13 hits over six innings. He struck out six.

Angels 13, Orioles 1

In Baltimore, Torii Hunter homered and scored four runs as Los Angeles routed Baltimore.

One night after reaching season highs in homers and hits, the Angels set a season mark for runs in their most lopsided victory of 2012. Los Angeles totaled 20 runs and 33 hits during the two-game series. They have won 13 of their past 14 road games.

Red Sox 10, Blue Jays 4

In Boston, David Ortiz hit his 399th homer as Boston scored six runs in the first inning against a wild Ricky Romero to beat Toronto for its fifth straight series win.

Adrian Gonzalez had three RBIs and Mike Aviles added two as the Red Sox improved to 9-2 in their last 11 games.

Royals 5, Rays 4

In Kansas City, Missouri, Billy Butler greeted reliever Burke Badenhop with a solo home run in the eighth inning, powering Kansas City to a three-game sweep of Tampa Bay on a scorching afternoon.

Mike Moustakas and Alcides Escobar also homered for the Royals, who completed their first three-game sweep of the Rays at home since 2001.

White Sox 12, Twins 5

In Minneapolis, Chris Sale pitched seven easy innings and Adam Dunn hit a three-run homer to lead Chicago past Minnesota.

Sale (9-2) allowed two runs and six hits while striking out five and walking one. He was leading the league with a 2.27 ERA.

Athletics 2, Mariners 1

In Seattle, Jarrod Parker struck out a career-high nine in seven innings as Oakland's only two hits in a victory over Seattle were homers by Yoenis Cespedes and Coco Crisp.

Parker (4-3) allowed three hits and walked four. He has given up two earned runs in his last 20 innings, going 2-0 in those three outings and lowering his ERA to 2.57.

Drexler denies he gave quotes about Magic in book

HOUSTON (AP)—Clyde Drexler denied Wednesday making negative statements attributed to him about Magic Johnson in an upcoming book about the Dream Team.

In Jack McCallum's book, "Dream Team," Drexler said Johnson only earned a spot on the Olympic team and the MVP award in the 1992 All-Star game out of pity resulting from his HIV diagnosis the previous year.

"He couldn't play much by that time. He couldn't guard his shadow," Drexler is quoted as saying in the book. "But you have to understand what was going on then. Everybody kept waiting for Magic to die. Every time he'd run up the court everybody would feel sorry for the guy, and he'd get all that benefit of the doubt."

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SUFA softball fundraiser starts tomorrow

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The SUFA Softball Association is holding another fundraiser softball tournament over the weekend at the Capitol Hill Ballfield.

Proceeds raised from the event will go toward the team's trip to Boise, Idaho where they will compete in 8th CNMI Labor Day Softball Tournament. This is the second time the competition will be held in Boise.

There is a $100 entrance fee per team.

Organizers are holding a 6pm managers and team representatives meeting tonight at the pavilion behind Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The fundraiser tourney will follow a double-elimination format with one modified coed rule, which stipulates that at least two female players must be both in the lineup and on field at all times.

Prizes are up for grabs, but have not been determined yet.

SUFA is a non-profit organization that raises its own funds every year in order to represent the CNMI in the popular Labor Day event held in the mainland. The event has also been held in Las Vegas, Seattle, San Diego and Portland in the past.

CNMI teams from Idaho, California, Washington, Hawaii, Arizona, and Nevada have also traveled annually to be a part of the congregation.

In Chamorro, sufa translates to "pushing or hitting" something.

This year marks SUFA's fifth appearance in the event.

This year Labor Day falls on a Monday, Sept. 3.

PAC-Chain topped 20 other squads to win last year's event over, which was held in Portland, Oregon. Unfortunately SUFA was the first team ousted last year, but they have beefed up their roster and vowed to turn in a better performance this time around.

For more information, contact Joe Flores at 483-7848 or SUFA secretary Alfreda Camacho at 287-3818 or email teamsufa@gmail.com.

CNMI

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of Australia. New Zealand's Ellie McCleery topped the race with a time of 56.44 seconds.

Sapong's teammates—Beo Ngirchongor and Michael Mancao— also raced in the 400m qualifying heats that took placed last Wednesday. Ngirchongor was on Heat 3 and timed in at 55.05 seconds to finish sixth in his group. Mancao also placed sixth on Heat 2, completing the event in 57.43 seconds. PNG's John Rivan won the gold in the 400m race after logging 49.26 seconds.

Meanwhile, the three-day tournament will conclude today with the seven-man CNMI Team competing in seven more events.

Abrams, Bennett, Rangamar, and Sapong will participate in the 4x400m relay at 4:10pm (same time on Saipan) against PNG A's Donna Konniel, Poro Gahekave, Tehilah Womola, and Tuna Tine; New Zealand's Larrisa Dyke, Ellie McCleery, Zoe Ballantyne, and Nneka Okpala; and Fiji's Suliana Batirau Gusuivalu, Mereseine Naidau, Elenoa Sailosi, and Miriama Senokonoko.

Bennett will also run in the women's open 100m race against nine others, including the favored Okpala (11.98 seconds). Bennett is hoping to reset her personal record and CNMI mark (12.52 seconds) in today's 100m sprint.

Orrin Pharmin will compete in the men's open 100m run, too, at 1:30pm, while Ngirchongor will have his second and last race via the U20 200m qualifying heat at 12:15pm.

Abrams is entered in the U20 200m qualifying heats, which will start at 12:05 and will feature 16 other runners, while Sapong and Mancao are both racing in the 800m preliminary runs.

JUNIOR

From Page 32

bound for Nha Trang City in Vietnam's Khanh Hoa Province.

"Even though we did not officially receive word that we were in fact going to make it over until (Tuesday) night, we all worked very hard this past week in getting everything prepared anyways. Our guys conducted practices as usual and I feel they are ready to play. I am grateful that these kids were given such a great opportunity and I assure you that they are looking forward to participating in Vietnam's first ASPAC event," said Junior All-Stars manager Bernard Cabrera at the airport Wednesday evening.

Cabrera added, "Lilian (Ada), Lynn (Duenas), and my wife Glenda helped us out a lot in processing everyone's travel arrangements and Roman Reyes and Annie (Flores) also played a big role in making all four teams possible."

James Ada was also at the airport to wish the team well. He also thanked the supporting cast and expressed his gratitude to all of the parents and players for their patience due to the last-minute travel arrangements.

The team also wanted to extend thanks to Tan Holdings, everyone who contributed to the coin drive, as well as all of the other donations received in the days leading up to their departure.

The team arrived in Vietnam early yesterday morning and will get in a good night's rest before the start of the competition.

The rest of its schedule shows them drawing a 3pm matchup against host Vietnam on Sunday; a 7pm meeting with the Philippines on Monday; a 9am morning duel against defending champion Chinese-Taipei on Tuesday; and then a 3pm pairing on Wednesday against Indonesia. Guam pulled out of the show.

The Top 4 teams after the round of pool play will advance to Thursday's semifinals with the championship and consolation featured in Friday's finale.

"We know that Chinese-Taipei is a strong team, but we aren't taking anybody lightly over there. We are not going to get caught up thinking about things like that too much rather we are going to concentrate on playing our game and hope to catch a wave of momentum," said Cabrera.

The team is made up of Jonathan Camacho, Jerald Cabrera, K.J. Deleon Guerrero, Terson Eina, Darion Jones, Michael Muna, Nathan Camacho, Jhace Palacios, Virolanson Secharmidal, Roke Tenorio, Kainao Wanket, Kenji Yamagata and James Kintaro, who unfortunately was unable to join the group due to passport complications.

Along with manager Cabrera, the team is fronted by head coach Randall Aguon and assistant coach Henry Lizama.

On behalf of the CNMI Senior All-Stars, Cabrera also sent out a big thank you to Reps. Ray Yumul, Joseph Guerrero, and Tony Sablan, Sen. Pete Reyes, Little League officials Roman Reyes, Annie Flores, and the rest of the organization's board of directors, CNMI district administrator James Ada and his wife Lilian; Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, Vietnam's Tom Trueller, Lynn Duenas, and last but not least his wife Glenda.

SINIGANG

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third placer Banahaw Restaurant (3-3). Only the Top 4 teams after the round-robin elimination will make it to the playoffs and KFC/Taco Bell (6-1) and the Fastbreakers (6-1) had already secured the two early playoff tickets. R-Lyn's (1-3) and Wushin (0-6) complete the group.

After trailing by as much as 13 early in the fourth quarter, Sinigang held San Roque to only two field goals in the last 7:51 of the match to steal the win.

A triple from Angelo Fernando capped San Roque's 9-2 scoring in the opening two minutes of the final canto, turning a 58-52 lead to a double-digit advantage, 67-54.

Sensing trouble, Sinigang sued for time and regrouped, launching its own 12-0 rally to move within one, 66-67, before Emerson Bautista stopped the bleeding for San Roque with a baseline basket. Fernando added another 2 points to San Roque's lead, 71-66, with his layup, going into the final 2:05 of the match.

However, Sinigang kept coming back and tied the match in the last 51 seconds, 71-all, with Michael Moran splitting his charities, J-Boy Gotengco making a fastbreak layup after a San Roque miss, and Gary Macahito nailing a bank shot off a counter steal. Sinigang managed to score 5 straight points in the last two minutes without giving up any for San Roque as the former used their fouls wisely to halt the latter's offensive sets.

Another San Roque botched play returned possession to Sinigang, which finally grab the lead, 72-71, after Gotengco was fouled and split his charities.

Michael Achas then had a chance to regain the upper hand for San Roque, but faltered on his drive. Sinigang controlled the board and trooped to the foul line anew when Prince Factor was fouled on his way to the basket. Factor went 0-for-2, however he redeemed himself after stealing the ball from Ryan Odicta in a scramble play and drove to the basket anew. Factor missed again, but the ball hit Bautista last in the rebound play before going out to the baseline.

After the bad break, San Roque got lucky when Jeron Ano's inbound pass to Moran hit the former's foot. San Roque regained possession in the last 25.5 seconds and went to its money man, Fernando, who called for an isolation from the right key. The San Roque gunner had the ball for more than 10 seconds, but was later forced to give it up as Moran and Factor shut the door on him. Odicta got the pass, but gave it quickly to Bautista at the baseline, and the latter also hesitated on taking the crucial attempt, making a drop pass to Hidalgo, who had the leather rolling in between his legs as the 24-second shot clock expired.

Sinigang had the last possession and just threw the ball in the final 1.5 seconds to complete the come-from-behind win.

Mawati 68, LD Prime 55

In a low-scoring game in Bracket A, Mawati (3-1) boosted its playoff chances after beating LD Prime.

Mawati limited LD Prime to no more than 11 points in the each of the first three quarters to get full control of the match en route to the 13-point win.

Jerome Reyes paced Mawati with 16 points, while Webster Guntar and Spam Avila chipped in 10 apiece.

Nat Banatasa had 13 for LD Prime, which fell to a 1-4 record and is unlikely to advance to the next round.

First Game

Sinigang 72 – Gotengco 16, Factor 14, Jeri. Habijan 12, Moran 9, Ano 6, Macahito 6, Lapuz 4, Jera. Habijan 3, Madreo 2.

San Roque 71 – Fernando 27, Ma. Achas 14, Bautista 12, Odicta 4, Salazar 4, Mi. Achas 4, Claveria 3, Hidalgo 3.

Scoring by quarters: 18-18, 36-41, 52-58, 72-71.

Second Game

Mawati 68 – Reyes 16, Guntar 10, Avila 10, Tenepere 8, Ibanez 7, Serrano 4, Harris 4, Corotan 3.

LD Prime 55 – Banatasa 13, Rollon 10, S. Quemado 8, Abaygar 8, Magtuloy 7, Hernaez 4, Pena 2.

Scoring by quarters: 18-11, 34-22, 54-31, 68-55.

EASY

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a 4-0 record, one win away from sweeping the round-robin regular season, while AON/Boholano finished with a 1-4 mark. SIP/Barney's notched its second straight victory for an even 2-2 card, while DeMolay fell to a 0-4 slate.

The win over AON was the most lopsided in the league this season and DYS/Bayani did it after limiting the former to two points in the second quarter. DYS/Bayani had a manageable lead at the end of the first period, 24-11, but opened a huge 46-13 halftime advantage when only Lemiet Hemley scored for AON in the second canto.

DYS/Bayani's much deeper bench was too much for the young crew of AON, composed of players who suited up for the CNMI Team B in last month's Micronesian Basketball U17 Tournament. DYS/Bayani, on the other hand, is bannered by members of CNMI Team A.

Nevin Salem led the one-sided victory with his 16 points, while seven others added at least 6 points each. Only Johnjohn Capuyon tallied double figures for AON with 12.

In the first game, SIP/Barney's also pulled away in the second quarter after holding DeMolay to 7 points.

The match was tied after the first 10 minutes, 11-all. John Darag carried most of the load for SIP/Barney's, scoring 9 of their total points, while four players made it to the scoreboard for DeMolay to keep their team in the game.

However, things started to fall apart for DeMolay in the second canto when only Dae Min Jeon drilled more than 2 points for the team. Darag also struggled in the second period, nailing only one field goal, but Erick Dela Rosa was there to fill the gap, making seven of his 13 markers in that quarter. Five other SIP players also contributed at least two points each to put their team in the driver's seat at the break, 30-18.

SIP/Barney's never looked back, as Darag became active on offense again in the second half and drew support from Albert Salas, who was scoreless in the first three quarters, but dropped all his 9 markers in the final frame.

First Game

SIP/Barney's 72 – Darag 20, Dela Rosa 13, Salas 9, Vertudez 5, Sacramento 4, Moran 4, Francisco 4, Maranan 4.

DeMolay 58 – Factor 17, Yap 14, Jeon 7, Gotengco 5, Bondoc 4, Mamaril 3, Madreo 3.

Scoring by quarters: 11-11, 30-18, 56-38, 71-58.

Second Game

DYS/Bayani 100 – Salem 16, Feria 14, Alegre 13, De Guzman 10, Tudela 9, Aguilar 8, Aranda 7, Mariano 6, Camacho 4, Villanueva 3.

AON/Boholano 33 – Capuyon 12, Yap 5, Javier 4, Regis 4, Palacios 4, Hemley 2, Mendoza 1, Escalada 1.

Scoring by quarters: 24-11, 46-13, 71-20, 100-33.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	46	28	.622	–
Baltimore	41	33	.554	5
Boston	40	35	.533	6 1/2
Tampa Bay	40	35	.533	6 1/2
Toronto	38	37	.507	8 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	40	35	.533	–
Cleveland	37	37	.500	2 1/2
Detroit	36	39	.480	4
Kansas City	34	39	.466	5
Minnesota	30	44	.405	9 1/2

West Division

Texas	47	29	.618	–
Los Angeles	42	33	.560	4 1/2
Oakland	37	39	.487	10
Seattle	32	45	.416	15 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	43	30	.589	—
Atlanta	40	34	.541	3 1/2
New York	40	36	.526	4 1/2
Philadelphia	36	41	.468	9
Miami	35	40	.467	9

Central Division

Cincinnati	41	33	.554	—
Pittsburgh	39	35	.527	2
St. Louis	40	36	.526	2
Milwaukee	34	41	.453	7 1/2
Houston	32	43	.427	9 1/2
Chicago	26	49	.347	15 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	43	33	.566	—
San Francisco	43	33	.566	—
Arizona	37	37	.500	5
Colorado	28	46	.378	14
San Diego	27	49	.355	16

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Senior All-Stars set carwash fundraiser tomorrow

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The CNMI Senior League All-Stars will be holding a carwash fundraiser today from 8am to 5pm at McDonald's Middle Road.

Proceeds of the carwash will go toward the team's trip to Guam where they will compete in the 2012 Senior League Asia-Pacific Regional Tournament next week in Hagatna's Paseo Stadium.

The team will be washing cars all day Saturday inside-and-out for only $10; outside or inside-only cleanings are offered for only $5 and, naturally, any additional donations are always welcome.

In addition, team manager Derron Flores wanted to thank all of the parents and supporters of the team, especially Juan Santiago Tenorio; Naked Fish Bar & Grill, and everyone who turned out for last Thursday's happy hour and raffle fundraiser; Pretty Market and the rest of Hen Qi Li Corporation; Mar-Pac and Coca-Cola; KKMP; Commonwealth Pacific International; Lisa Sablan and Sablan Top Line; and everyone who contributed to the team's coin drive.

Flores confirmed that the team's airfare expenses have already been covered, however the team still needs funds to help cover accommodation, transportation, and miscellaneous daily expenses such as food and drinks.

"I am very appreciative that so many people came out to show support for the team. My players have been working very hard to raise funds and have been putting in a lot of work on the practice field as well. We are going over there to compete and give it our all," asserted Flores in a phone interview on Wednesday.

The team is expected to depart for Guam with the CNMI Big League All-Stars on Monday, July 2, and should have time to get in some practice and be well-rested for July 4 opener.

The CNMI Senior League All-Stars include Cedric and Davin Ada, Steven Cabera, Frankie Camacho, Keoni and Khobby Kaipat, Francisco Lieto, A.J. and Jeffrey Lizama, Davie Matagolai, Austin Piteg, Henry Rabauliman, Talyor Sablan, Raymond Saralu, Lancaster Secharmidal, and Jonathan Villagomez.

Flores fronts the crew with head coach Isidoru Camacho and assistant coach Walter Macaranas.

Anybody who would like to donate to the team before they set off can contact Flores at 989-0619 or Macaranas at 483-9258.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
The CNMI Senior League All-Stars pose for a team photo in the dugout of the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield during the CNMI District Tournament.

Saipan duo top Flipper Tournament

▲ Medalists in last Saturday's 4th Saipan International Open Water Flipper Tournament pose for a commemorative photo after the awards ceremony and breakfast at Managaha following the race.
MVA

▶ Japan Olympic golf medalist Ai Shibata is interviewed by media at the 4th Saipan International Open Water Flipper Tournament last June 23 at Managaha. Shibata attended to support the event.
MVA

Hometown kids Kensuke Kimura and Eli Ebenezer "Rezne" Wong bested 28 other competitors to finish tied in first place in the 4th Annual Saipan International Open Water Flipper Tournament held last Saturday.

The Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center duo crossed the beach finish line in 25:01. Thirteen-year-old Angel Marie Tan of the NMI topped the women's field in 27:06.

The 1.5-km swim around the award-winning island of Managaha delivered crystal clear waters and rainbows overhead for competitors.

Second in the men's division were Kaito Yanai (27:10), coming in third is Takumi Sugie (28:31), all of the Northern Mariana Islands. In second place for the women's division is Yumi Ishiodori (27:44), and in third place is Hatsumi Watanabe (29:38), all of Japan.

Finishing first in their age categories were Ryuto Yanai in the men's division (36:09), and Karen Ann Irinaka in the female division (59:05) for ages 10-and-under. For ages 11-12 in the male division went to Hiroto Yanai (29:10) and for ages 20-29 in the male division was Yutaka Miyashita (31:42), in the female division was YukoWatanabe (43:33) For ages 30-39 in the male division was Katsutoshi Sakuma (30:01) and in the female division was Makiko Morishita (43:32). And in the 40-49 age division for the men's went to TomiNishikido (29:55) and in the female division went to Ikue Takahashi (36:36). In the 50-59 age division went to Aiko Oshima (31:37). And for ages 60-and-up in the men's division went to Yasuhiro Kumikura (37:10).

"The flipper race was a success in that all winners finished safely and enjoyed themselves," said MVA Community Projects manager Martin Duenas. "However, the primary goal of the event is to attract visitors, so our post-race evaluation will be a careful cost-benefit analysis and exploration of options to grow the event in consideration of holding it again next year."

The oldest competitor, 65-year-old Toshiyuki Nakajima, crossed the finish line in 1:05:01 to a round of encouraging applause by other swimmers. The two youngest swimmers, 8-year-olds Ryuto Yanai and Juhn Tenorio of the Northern Marianas, registered at 36:09 and 38:28, respectively.

The race, organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority, requires swimmers to use wetsuits and fins. Snorkels and life jackets were also allowed. The race was followed by an island-style breakfast and awards ceremony. Competitors enjoyed free time on the island before departing late in the morning, just as the daily rush of visitors began to arrive.

Ai Shibata, a former Japanese Olympic gold medalist in the Athens 2004 Olympics, was on hand to encourage the swimmers.

The event is also sponsored by the Community Sports Center Foundation of Japan, Saipan International Open Water Flipper Tournament Executive Committees, local organizing committee, representatives from Japan and the CNMI, and Japan Saipan Travel Association, HANMI, DFS, Diving Equipments Makers, Food Companies, Insurance Companies, CHC Saipan, Department of Public Safety (Boating Division) and the Coastal Resources Management (CRM), Japan Marine Recreation Association, Japan Recreational Diving Industry Association, Japan Scuba Association, Japan Wetsuits Manufacturers Association, University of Live Sport Education Society, Northern Mariana Diving Operators Association (NMDOA), Japan Sport Diving Association, Japan Snorkeling Association, the Japan Diving Federation, Meiji (VAAM), Mask (GULL), Tabata (TUSA), Moby Dick Restaurant, B-ism, Delta Air Lines, Marine Diving Magazine, SAS, Scuba Pro Asia, Japan Aqua Lung, Saipan World Resort, Country House Restaurant, Kanoa Resort (formerly Saipan Grand Hotel), Tasi Tours & Transportation, Inc., Hafadai Beach Hotel, Japan Saipan Travel Association (JSTA), DFS, and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. ***(MVA)***

2012 Rota Cliff Fishing Derby on July 27-29

Cliff fishing competition returns to Rota next month with the 2012 Rota Cliff Fishing Derby set for July 27-29, 2012.

Co-sponsored by the Marianas Visitors Authority and the municipality of Rota, the event aims to attract visitors to the tropical island for competition at three well-known fishing sites: As Matmos, Malilok, and Pona Point.

Registration is $30. Fishermen ages 16 and younger are free. The last day to register is July 26, at 4pm.

Derby check-in will be at 4pm on July 27 at Guata Beach Park, followed by orientation and the start of the derby at 5:30pm. The derby will end at 12 noon on the final day.

Cash prizes will be awarded for the Top 4 finishers in the categories of Biggest Fish and Total Weight ($600 first place, $300 second place, $200 third place, and $100 fourth place).

The Top 4 finishers in the Most Variety category will be receiving in-kind donations from Ambros Inc.

"For many years these cliff sites have been known as some the best fishing spots for not only fishing competitions, but also for those fishing for personal consumption. The three locations offer derby participants options at different parts of the island, especially during windy conditions," said MVA Community Projects manager Martin Duenas. "Between the cliff fishing and Rota's natural beauty, the Rota Cliff Fishing Derby offers visiting fishermen a memorable excursion."

In addition to the MVA, the event is sponsored by the Rota Mayor's Office, Rota Municipal Council, Rota Legislative Delegation, and Ambros Inc.

Weigh-ins will be at each fishing site in the morning and evening of July 28 and on the morning of July 29. Reserving spots before the derby begins will not be allowed.

For complete rules or to register, contact Sandra Atalig of the MVA at 532-0327 or satalig@mymarianas.com or Martin Duenas at 664-3200 or mduenas@mymarianas.com. ***(MVA)***

DEQ, Guam EPA Environmental Goodwill Games

The CNMI Division of Environmental Quality and the Guam Environmental Protection Agency together comprises approximately 75 staff and their families will compete in the 5th Annual Goodwill Games tournament on Saipan starting today, June 29, to Sunday, July 1.

The goal of the environmental goodwill games between the two environmental agencies is to promote goodwill and networking opportunities between counterparts. In the last goodwill games held in Guam, the Guam EPA defeated DEQ and claimed the perpetual trophy. This year, CNMI DEQ is ready to reclaim the trophy, which they held for two years in the initial games.

"We anticipate the most spectacular and competitive competition for this year's Games," said Goodwill Games chair Julie Mendoza.

The games will test the ability of each agency by engaging in teamwork and cooperation. The games include softball, basketball, mini-Tagaman, an obstacle course, tug-o-war, Fear Factor, billiards, darts, beer pong, and waterfall.

"We are very excited for the upcoming goodwill games and we look forward to fostering and enhancing our relationship with Guam EPA," said DEQ director Frank Rabauliman.

The games will be held at the American Memorial Park in Garapan. ***(PR)***

Saipan Tribune
Sports

CNMI quartet completes relay race in Australia

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI delegates to the Oceania Regional Championships 2012 pose for a group photo before the start of the opening ceremonies at the Barlow Park in Cairns, Australia, last Tuesday.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Yvonne Bennett, Lia Rangamar, Rachel Abrams, and Reylynn Sapong made history for the CNMI after competing in the 4x100m relay event in the Oceania Regional Championships 2012 yesterday at the Barlow Park in Cairns, Australia.

The quartet was the first Commonwealth team to race in a relay run in the Oceania championship and completed the event in 53.79 seconds to save third place in the group. Fiji topped the group with its 49.72 seconds, followed by Papua New Guinea (50.65 seconds). Japan, a guest team, was in the same race and posted the fastest time at 44.39, while Australia's A team also ran in the relay and timed in at 49.55 seconds.

Before the relay event, Sapong debuted in the Oceania championship via the 400m run and submitted 70.58 seconds. She was on Heat 1 and raced against seven others, including eventual silver medalist Courtney Geraghty (57.33 seconds)

See CNMI on Page 30

Easy wins for DYS, SIP

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

DYS/Bayani and Samahang Ilokano at Pangesinense/Barney's had a walk in the park in the U20 division make-up matches in the 2012 UFO Docomo Pacific Cup last Tuesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

DYS/Bayani pounded the hapless AON/Boholano in the second game, 100-33, while SIP/Barney's whipped DeMolay in the curtain raiser, 72-58. DYS/Bayani now has

See EASY on Page 30

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Eric Dela Rosa, seen here driving against AON/Boholano players in an earlier game in the U20 division, plays for SIP/Barney's, which beat DeMolay in a make-up match last Tuesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Sinigang escapes San Roque, 72-71

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Sinigang remained in contention for a playoff spot in the 2012 DLX/DL JOS Inter-Color Basketball League after pulling off a 72-71 win over San Roque last Wednesday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Sinigang now has a 2-3 record for a tie for fourth to sixth place with Brabu Gualo Rai and San Roque in the Bracket B standings, just one win behind

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Sinigang's Michael Moran, is sandwiched by San Roque's Emerson Bautista, left, and Ryan Odicta during the closing seconds of their game in the DLX/DL JOS caging last Wednesday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Junior All-Stars take on HK tomorrow

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The CNMI Junior League All-Stars are scheduled to play Hong Kong at 9am tomorrow to kick off this year's Asia-Pacific Regional Tournament, which is being hosted for the first time ever by Vietnam.

The team left the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport at 9:55pm Wednesday night

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WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

The CNMI Senior League All-Stars pose for a group photo outside the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport before leaving for Vietnam Wednesday night.